Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-212 *3 November 1989*

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Cuba

Havana Media Reaction to Costa Rican Summit

FL0211172389

[Editorial Report] Havana media report extensively on the 27-28 October hemispheric summit of democratic heads of state in San Jose, Costa Rica. In initial reports on 25 and 26 October, Havana media briefly note the meetings expected to take place during the summit and note the arrivals of the various heads of state.

In addition, on 26 October, the eve of the summit, Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1200 GMT carries a report critical of the Costa Rican Government. Citing the Costa Rican People's Party reaction to Cuba's "exclusion" from the summit, the report terms the Costa Rican Government's position on Cuba as "deplorable," which resulted from either "U.S. pressures" or an internal decision by the Oscar Arias administration. The report cites an official of the Costa Rican party who contrasts this position with the goals of the Group of Eight and other regional organizations, which are working for Cuba's reintegration into the Latin American system and its return to the OAS. In a similar vein, Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish at 2032 GMT on 26 October cites Costa Rican press reports on regional efforts to reinstate Cuba as a member of the OAS.

Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1800 GMT on 26 October carries its first station commentary on the summit, which is also critical of President Arias. Asserting that Cuba was "excluded from the meeting by the host government of President Oscar Arias," the commentary doubts the success of the meeting, which has no specified agenda and which will not issue a final declaration because of the U.S. President's refusal to sign the same document as Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. As a result of this, the commentary views the heads of state summit as a "simple informal meeting." The commentary charges that President Arias' conduct is "unworthy" and that he has displayed the behavior of a "lackey" who, in excluding the Governments of Cuba and Panama from the summit, is "ingratiating himself with President Bush." The commentary concludes that President Arias cannot deny the legitimacy of the Cuban revolution, which was recently confirmed by the Group of Eight meeting and the UN vote that gave Cuba a nonpermanent seat in the Security Council.

Radio Rebelde, during its "Exclusivo" program at 0000 GMT on 27 October, reports Nicaraguan President Ortega as saying that it was "illogical" for Cuba and Panama not to be present at the summit. Havana Television Service in Spanish at 0100 GMT on 27 October carries a similar report on Ortega's remarks.

Characteristic of Havana media reportage on the 2-day "informal meeting" of heads of state is the assessment of the 1st day of the summit carried by Radio Reloj at 1206 GMT on 28 October. Noting the "ambiguities" surrounding the summit, Reloj reports that the only agreements reached were on supporting Colombia in its efforts against drug trafficking and on granting Canada full membership into the OAS. The report cites statements by Belizean Prime Minister George Price in support of Cuba's reintegration into the OAS and by Colombian President Virgilio Barco, who rejects U.S. pressure against Panama. Nicaraguan President Ortega's statement on suspending the cease-fire is also reported. Noting President Bush's "gift" to Costa Rica of renegotiating its debt, the report cites Bush as saying that he is the "watchman of Latin America."

Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish at 1202 GMT on 28 October carries the "first official reaction" to the heads of state meeting in its report on Cuban President Fidel Castro's interview with Venezuelan television. In the interview, Castro says the summit is a "caricature," where President Bush does not want anything to be discussed. Regarding President Arias, Castro says that although Arias and he previously had always spoke in the most friendly manner, now "he does me the honor of excluding me." Castro, in defense of the Cuban political system, further says that democracy is a "government of the people, for the people, and by the people, but not of a small group of people for the oligarchy and by the oligarchy."

Radio Rebelde, in its 1800 GMT station commentary on 28 October, expands on Castro's remarks to Venezuelan television. The commentary asserts that nothing was agreed upon or recorded at the summit and that it was a "political exercise," a "caricature of a presidential meeting" that meant nothing to the Latin American and Caribbean people. The commentary blames President Arias for causing the meeting to fail in order to please President Bush. Citing Castro's remarks on President Arias, the commentary concludes: "He who does not make the rules, even at home, cannot call himself a democratic person. He is simply a lackey."

Meeting on 30 Years of Revolution Opens in Canada

FL0211193289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Current relations between Cuba and Canada are correct, cordial, and have possibilities of developing in various fields. This was said by Richard Gorham, Canadian itinerant ambassador to Latin America and permanent observer to the OAS. Gorham spoke during the opening of the international academic conference called—Cuba: Balance of 30 Years of Revolution—that began in Halifax yesterday and will continue until 4 November.

Gorham recalled that Cuban President Fidel Castro once described those relations as a model of the ties that nations with different political and social systems should maintain. Gorham stressed that Canada's response has always been that that description is very accurate.

Canada opened its embassy in Havana on 16 March 1945 and has maintained relations with Cuba since then. It did not join the economic embargo initiated by the United States.

Cuban Foreign Vice Minister Ricardo Alarcon noted that the international meeting will focus on the balance of what our country has achieved in 30 years of revolution, its accomplishments and deficiencies, its international impact, and its outlook. He warned that the assessment will be inaccurate if it is not done under the prism of the concrete situation in which the Cuban revolution has developed. He recalled U.S. hostility against Cuba during the last few years.

Over 70 lectures will be given today. They will be discussed by 14 panels beginning with a plenary meeting on government, democracy, and participation. Ernesto Che Guevara's thinking in contemporary Cuba, the human rights situation, changes in the legal system, and the significance of President Fidel Castro and the Cuban revolution will also be analyzed. The socialist economy, Cuba's development strategies, and the economic aspects of the rectification process will be discussed, among other subjects.

Swedish Parliament Official Visits Country

Meets With Severo del Cristo

FL0211193489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, met this morning with Mr Steve Alaner, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the parliament of the Kingdom of Sweden, who has been a guest in our capital since yesterday. During his conversation with Aguirre del Cristo, Mr Alaner learned about the development of our country in various areas and other matters of mutual interest to increase relations between the two parliaments. The visitor talked to the press at the end of the talks:

[Begin Alaner recording, in English] It is important that Cuba be a member of the UN Security Council so that Cuba can play an important role in international politics. [end recording]

During his stay in our country, the representative of the Swedish Parliament will visit construction projects, the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center, and the Habana Vieja historic area. He will meet with high-level leaders of the Cuban party and Government.

Calls for Improved U.S. Ties

FL0211225989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2058 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Steve Alaner, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the parliament of the Kingdom of Sweden, is visiting our country in response to an invitation extended by the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. While in Havana, Alaner called for improved relations between Cuba and the United States.

The distinguished visitor met with ANPP President [title as heard] Severo Aguirre at ANPP headquarters. During the meeting, Alaner said that whenever he speaks with members of the U.S. Congress, he mentions the rights of the peoples of small nations. The Swedish parliamentarian said Cuba's membership in the UN Security Council is very important.

Severo Aguirre explained to him that being a member of the UN Security Council is an acknowledgement of Cuba's efforts toward peace. Aguirre also expressed his appreciation to all those who voted for Cuba's membership.

Havana Schedules Power Outages 3-5 Nov

FL0311020189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0016 GMT 3 Nov 89

[From "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] The Havana Electrical Transmission and Distribution Enterprise reports that because of maintenance and reconstruction work, electrical service will be interrupted November 3, 4, and 5 in several neighborhoods throughout the capital from 0700 to 1800. The neighborhoods in Boyeros Municipality that will be affected are Tre-Vol, Garcia, Las Canas, Cuervo, Parajon, and El Trigal. In Arroyo Naranjo Municipality, the neighborhoods that will be affected are Alturas del Rosario, El Rosario, La Guinea, and Golpe. In addition, all of Rosario Avenue and the area surrounding Ernesto Che Guevara Pioneer Palace will be affected by the power outage.

This interruption in power is occurring because of the enterprise's need to work on the circuits servicing these municipalities to improve the voltage situation. This will require a second stage of work, which will be announced in the future.

Grenada

Blaize's Health May Affect Party Inauguration

FL0211234489 Bridgetown CANA in English 2148 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Nov 2, CANA—The poor health of Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize could force his political party to postpone Sunday's official launching in the rural parish of St Andrew's, officials close to the 71-year-old leader said Thursday. They told CANA that Blaize, who gets treatment in the United States for a prostate gland disorder, had been forced to cancel all appointments because of ill health.

"I am beginning to get worried. It is the worst I have ever seen him look," one official remarked. He said that if there is no significant improvement in Blaize's health in the next few hours, there could be a postponement of the launching of the two-month-old National Party (NP).

Blaize, who has been restricted to a wheelchair in the last year, was reported to be weak. He missed Tuesday's weekly cabinet session, allowing Deputy Prime Minister Ben Jones to preside over the meeting.

"This morning I telephoned him and he could hardly answer. He seems to have almost lost his voice," one source reported.

But party officials were still putting up posters across the country in support of Sunday's launching. "As far as I know, there are no plans to cancel the rally," one party supporter said.

Prime Minister on Sale of Discovery TV Station

FL0211232889 Bridgetown CANA in English 2157 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Boston, Nov 2, CANA—Grenada's Discovery television station, set up at the request of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, has been sold to a consortium of government and business interests, owner Boston businessman David C. McCourt, said.

Speaking at the official ceremony to transfer ownership to Grenada Television Services Limited, Prime Minister and Minister of Information Herbert Blaize said: "Our television must have as its main objective the unity of our people and source of truth in all things."

Blaize said ownership and control of the television station will now rest in the hands of Grenadians through the purchase of shares in the new company. "It is important to make it very clear that the sale of shares will be so structured as to ensure that no single individual, company, or select group will be able to buy a majority of shares and so control the station," he said. "It shall be, as far as this government is concerned, a station owned by all Grenadians—the vendor, the farmer, the taxi driver, the clerk, the civil servant, the businessman, and all else who are prepared to invest in the development of this country."

Mccourt, president and chief executive officer of Boston-based McCourt Cable Systems Inc., said he will be devoting his future efforts to creating a programming network in the Caribbean that addresses, in very specific terms, the special needs of the region, relying heavily on lifestyle, self-improvement, music, and health-related programming. The network will be designed to corral, within the Caribbean, the largest number of households ever reached by programming produced in the region, he said. More specifics on the types of programming are expected to be announced in the coming months.

McCourt set up the station at the request of the Reagan administration in the wake of the 1983 U.S.-led invasion of Grenada.

Haiti

Armed Forces Commissions 332 New Recruits

FL0211171089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Three hundred thirty-two recruits out of 1,200 men who signed up last June received their commissions yesterday morning during a military parade on the National Palace grounds in the presence of the chief of state, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril; Major General Herard Abrahama, interim commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH]; Sergeant Major Joseph Heubreux; and other FADH officers and noncoms. This new class of soldiers increases the number of FADH troops, which was reduced following the regrettable events of April 1989.

These troops, most of them young men, have for the past 4 months been taking training courses in military discipline, good manners, tactics, map reading, collective (?forays), how to maintain order, etcetera.

During this ceremony, FADH Sublieutenant Michel Ovile Jerome highlighted the importance and the significance of the decision made by the higher echelons of the Army after the failed coup of April 1989.

[Begin Jerome recording, in French] After the unfortunate events of April, the soldiers of the Presidential Guard Battalion found themselves having to shoulder the heavy responsibility not only of providing security for the National Palace but also of responding to the repeated calls from the entire metropolitan area. The Presidential Guard soldiers worked doubly hard to make up for the insufficient number of troops in the battalion. They scorned fatigue, the number of hours on duty, and so forth to prove themselves worthy of their noble duty.

It was decided to bring in a new class of recruits to increase the number of troops in the Presidential Guard to the number stipulated in the regulations, which also provides greater well-being for the Presidential Guard soldiers.

Out of 1,200 people who signed up, 337 were accepted following the entrance exam. Out of these 337 men who joined FADH on 1 June 1989, 5 have been discharged. [end recording]

These 332 recruits joined the ranks of the Haitian Army yesterday morning on the grounds of the National Palace. The number of Army troops has been increased by the 332 new soldiers. [passage omitted]

Costa Rica

Arias Urges Contras To Stop Military Actions

PA0211180989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1638 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] San Jose, 2 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—Today Costa Rican President Oscar Arias called on the Nicaraguan contras to stop their military actions and reminded his Nicaraguan colleague, Daniel Ortega, that "a government has the obligation to search for peace."

The Costa Rican president stated that he saw no reason for the continuation of the anti-Sandinists' armed raids (from Honduran territory).

On the contrary, he added, "our objective (the Central American presidents) with the Tela (Honduras) agreement was to persuade the contras to return to their own country voluntarily and start to live normally."

Arias still hopes that some governments will exert pressure on the anti-Sandinists to convince them that their attacks are jeopardizing the Nicaraguan electoral process that will end with the 25 February 1990 elections.

The Costa Rican head of state insisted that the Sandinist government should not have suspended the cease-fire because, among other things, "a government's obligation is to search for peace."

He noted that the country's pacification will bring political stability and will allow the electoral process to continue.

Answering questions posed by reporters, Arias stated that instead of stopping the cease-fire, Ortega should have called friendly governments, such as the ones of Felipe Gonzalez (Spain) and Carlos Andres Perez (Venezuela), "to get their help in resolving the problem without returning to war."

The president revealed that he talked with Ortega during the summit's formal dinner on 27 October, and "vehemently" recommended that he request such aid and not take "the step backward" of renewing the armed struggle.

The Costa Rican president and Nobel Peace Prize laureate did not reject the possibility of calling Ortega in the upcoming days to request that a new dialogue be held.

Relations With Panama Reduced to 'Minimum' Level

PA0211184089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1723 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] San Jose, 2 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—The Costa Rican Government has reduced the level of its diplomatic relations with Panama to the level of charge d'affairs, Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal reported today.

The foreign minister explained that the reduction "to the minimum" of relations with Panama means revoking the appointment of Ambassador Jorge Emilio Regidor, who never presented his credentials, and the future appointment of the ambassador to another diplomatic post, which he did not mention by name.

At the end of 1988, Costa Rica withdrew Miguel Yamuni, its ambassador to Panama at that time. Costa Rica did not send a new ambassador due to the worsening of Panama's internal crisis.

Madrigal did not give the name of the government official who will be in charge of the diplomatic post in Panama. Madrigal said, however, that as long as the political situation remains unsolved in Panama—which worsened after the annulment of the May elections—"Costa Rica will not even think of sending a new ambassador."

Panama and Costa Rica share a common border of over 300 km. After the Panamanian crisis began in 1987, the trade between the two countries suffered a strong setback. In 1987 the trade was favorable for Costa Rica with $23 million, while in 1988 it only totaled $6 million.

The Costa Rican foreign minister said his country expects that next week, during the OAS general assembly that will be held in Washington in mid-November, a "more vigorous, clearer, and stronger" resolution will be issued regarding the Panamanian problem.

Concerning a proposal to suspend Panama from the OAS, Madrigal said his country is not promoting this action. Such an important decision should be considered because it cannot be an isolated one. The only precedent in a similar situation is the case of Cuba in 1962 when at the OAS ministers meeting, it was isolated from the inter-American system after the Cuban Government declared that it was an ally of the USSR.

According to unofficial reports from Panama, there is fear in the Panamanian Government over its possible ouster from the OAS.

Following the annulment of the May elections, several Latin American countries have withdrawn their ambassadors to Panama.

El Salvaodor

Cristiani Comments on Recent Terrorist Actions

PA0211155589 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Report on statement by President Alfredo Cristiani in El Salvador—date not given]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani said positive results were obtained during the presidential summit in Costa Rica. One of the accomplishments, Cristiani said, is that there was an opportunity to hold bilateral talks with South American presidents.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We had the opportunity to hold bilateral talks with South American presidents and to brief them on the peace process, the government efforts to attain peace, and the objectives of the peace process. The presidents received firsthand information on the peace plan and on the results the government expects from this process [words indistinct]. I believe we have received great support for the peace process. As a country, El Salvador has received the Latin American presidents' support for the peace process, especially the support of the South American presidents with whom we had not had an opportunity to hold bilateral talks. [end recording]

Regarding the coffee problem, Cristiani said the presidents noted the need for reaching agreements on the coffee pact and the price of coffee. He added that during the presidential summit he condemned, in the presence of all presidents, the aid Nicaragua gives to the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. However, there was no response from the Sandinist government, Cristiani stated.

Concerning the recent attacks blamed on the guerrillas, particularly the 30 October attack on the Army's High Command, Cristiani said this is regrettable because civilians are more affected by such attacks.

[Begin Cristiani recording] This incident takes place at a time when the FMLN is trying to show its strength. The FMLN is also trying to provoke some reaction from the Armed Forces so that the Army, in a given moment, exerts pressure to suspend the dialogue process. I think this is the reason for their attitude. [end recording]

Cristiani added that such attitudes will not hinder the dialogue process in Venezuela. He added that the government proposal will be the same proposal presented in Costa Rica and it will be fully discussed. However, the priority will always be the cessation of hostilities.

Reportage on Rebels' Suspension of Dialogue

FMLN Breaks Off Negotiation

PA0211212089 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2054 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Radio Cadena YSKL's news center received a telephone call from the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] spokesmen. According to them, the dialogue between the government and the FMLN has been suspended.

The information says that FMLN General Command made the decision given the latest actions carried out in the country—specifically the attack on FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation], which resulted in the death of 10 union members.

We repeat: The FMLN has called us to report that the meeting scheduled between the government and the FMLN in Caracas, Venezuela, has been suspended given the events that have occurred in recent days, particularly the killing of 10 labor union members at the FENASTRAS headquarters on Tuesday, 31 October.

We have been told that the guerrilla organization has temporarily suspended the dialogue until the government guarantees the protection of civic-cultural and labor organizations in the country.

Issues Explanatory Communique

PA0311011989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0007 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command in El Salvador on 2 November]

[Text] Communique: The FMLN reports to our people and the people of the world the following:

1. The massacre against FENASTRAS was planned in cold blood. The site and the moment when the FENASTRAS leaders were meeting had been selected.

2. We have trustworthy information from our intelligence organs that this action was ordered by Colonel Ponce, that Cristiani knew about it and approved it, and that it was carried out by Colonel Elena Fuente as the head of the morbid death squad of the Army's 1st Infantry Brigade in response to our military attack on the Army staff. This behavior by Cristiani should surprise no one. Terrorism is an old practice of the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA].

Only a few days ago, ARENA assassins tried to kill the president of the Mortgage Bank, Mr Mason, for not following their orders.

3. The people demand the resignation of Chief of Staff Col Emilio Ponce because his responsibility in this criminal action is real.

4. The FMLN has prudently taken time before adopting a definite position. The government and the Armed Forces have adopted an irresponsible attitude and have brazenly accused the FMLN of the crimes they commit.

In view of this attitude and of the people's indignation, we have to prevent our presence at the dialogue from being used to cover up the government's responsibility in this massacre and to enhance the mask of moderate and negotiator that Cristiani has been using to secure political support and U.S. financial support to extend the war.

In San Jose, speaking on its view of the war, the government said that it considers popular movements as support organizations of the FMLN, and therefore, as enemies of the government in the armed conflict.

We demanded that the government delegation give us a list of those organizations, but to no avail. The terrorist attacks and massacres are now yielding the lists that were denied to us at the dialogue table.

Even before the San Jose meeting, the government had greatly increased its repression. Since the meeting, it has increased its detentions and attacked the residences of leaders of the Social Christian People's Movement and the UDN [Nationalist Democratic Union], university, FECMASAN [Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero Federation of Committees of Mothers and Relatives], and FENASTRAS. Meanwhile, Cristiani is maintaining his hypocritical position of moderation.

The massacres, detentions, and repression of earthquake victims, the repatriated, universities, labor unions, peasant cooperatives, mothers' organizations, and other segments of the population show that the war of the Armed Forces, government, and ARENA is aimed against the people and, therefore, these groups cannot and will not remain idle.

The Salvadoran people have the right to take up arms and exercise their legitimate defense. The armed people's and revolutionary struggle headed by the FMLN is just, legitimate, and necessary. [Words indistinct] two-faced Cristiani administration, the FMLN has decided to immediately contact the dialogue observers and the church, which is the mediator, to demand through them guarantees for opposition civic and labor groups and a review of the current conditions of the dialogue, negotiation process, and its prospects. Meanwhile, we believe that it is necessary to suspend our participation in the Caracas meeting.

[Signed] FMLN General Command: Commanders Salvador Sanchez Ceren, Francisco Jovel, Shafik Jorge Handal, Eduardo Sancho, and Joaquin Villalobos
El Salvador, 2 November 1989

Conditions for Resuming Process

PA0311045789 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2335 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Interview with Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front Commander Eduardo Sancho, alias Ferman Cienfuegos, by Rene Alvarengas "a few minutes ago"; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Alvarengas] Commander Ferman Cienfuegos, when will the dialogue resume?

[Sancho] We believe that for the dialogue to be resumed the government and the Armed Forces—mainly Cristiani and Colonels Ponce and Elena—must specifically accept their responsibilities. We believe that once this situation and all the political actions for which they are responsible have been clarified.... [changes thought] They have to explain things very clearly because we are really tired of hearing the famous phrase that they always use: They are going to investigate. That is no longer possible; therefore, we are demanding that the situation be clarified.

Meanwhile, we are going to talk to the observers [testigos] and mediators to check on how the situation is developing and at the same time to study the conditions for the dialogue-negotiation. I believe the nature of the suspension has been well explained. These conditions must be met before we can resume the meeting. It must be made very clear that the agreement to hold a dialogue, the continuity of the dialogue, has not been broken. This was agreed on by the two parties, and this is not what we are talking about. We suspended the meeting that has created so many expectations. The San Jose Agreement stated there would be a cease-fire and a gradual process to end hostilities that would lead to the end of the war; however, we believe that for this to be done, we must first have specific democratic conditions. That is what Cristiani signed in Tela, Honduras. What we are seeing here is the unmasking of a fascist dictatorship. We are seeing a fascist and terrorist clique. The members of the death squads are practically legal in El Salvador. [passage omitted]

Guerrilla Commander Comments

PA0311022389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0018 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Interview with Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front Commander Eduardo Sancho, alias Ferman Cienfuegos, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Comrade Sancho, why has the FMLN decided not to attend the Caracas meeting?

[Sancho] The FMLN General Command instructed me this afternoon to announce to the nation a communique in which we decided not to attend the Caracas meeting and dialogue. The reason for this is the recent FENASTRAS massacre, which we believe cannot be ignored. This is not just another attack, like the ones we are used to, but an attack that signals a new political era similar to those when an (?electoral) massacre occurred, when Msgr Arnulfo Romero was murdered, when other crimes marked new steps in the new fascist escalation of the dictatorship now led by Alfredo Cristiani, Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, and the great executioner and perpetrator of massacres, Elena Fuentes. The main thing is that the fascist military dictatorship, headed by a small Armed Forces group, has been exposed. We do not think this can be ignored. The state and [words indistinct] have to pay a political price. This price is Col Ponce's resignation, which is now demanded by the people's movement.

[Reporter] After the attack, instead of seeking a detente, the Army, on the contrary, continued its provocations. For instance, several plainclothes members of the 1st Infantry Brigade [words indistinct] FENASTRAS and the popular movement took them prisoner. More than 30 of them were detained. We learned this afternoon that the police released a communique saying they would station antiriot policemen at the national cemetery. We also heard Col Mauricio Vargas saying that, if the dialogue door is closed, it has to be kicked open. What do you think of the situation after the cowardly attack on FENASTRAS?

[Sancho] We think all these activities of the death squads, the 1st Infantry Brigade, the police, and the National Guard are only the open expression of the Armed Forces' position, which is to plan a full-scale confrontation with the popular movement. We think this indicates [words indistinct] behind the backs of the majority of Armed Forces members. It is a minority who have decided on these provocations against the popular movement. This movement, however, is sufficiently (?strong) to disarm these provocateurs, present them to the press, and hand them over to show that the people express their tremendous power whenever they want.

[Reporter] With La Tandona [reference to 1966 graduates of the Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy] in power, and with the situation the ARENA [National Republican Alliance] era has ushered in, is there no possible solution through dialogue? What other alternative do you have?

[Sancho] I believe that it is quite clear that President Cristiani and the high command are practically doing away with political opportunities, as our earlier communique issued after the FENASTRAS attack indicates. The end result is that since there is no political framework within which to establish a political game with certain political rules for the opposition and state forces, our only other alternative is to immediately take up our weapons, because there is no other way of guaranteeing the survival of the popular movement and the nation. The people's legitimate right to defense is becoming increasingly legitimate, and it is gaining greater national and international recognition.

[Reporter] The popular movement is once again facing a decisive moment in the country's history, and the workers are giving their share of blood in this struggle. What message would you send to the popular movement, especially to the comrade workers at FENASTRAS?

[Sancho] On this occasion, I wish to send a special message to FENASTRAS. I must tell them to continue to be inspired by the purest concepts of the popular struggle, to keep their inspiration, to be creative and cool, and that when people begin to create their own history, they are truly invincible.

I believe that FENASTRAS has the people's full support and that it will gradually gain even more support. FENASTRAS must continue—as its leaders say—on the warpath. In reality, the cost in lives of leaders such as Febe Elizabeth and all the others who were killed, as well as those killed in the past, is quite high. The cost is political. It has taken lives but this, in reality, strengthens the organization. The people's response has been one of anger and discontent, and this discontent will eventually turn into a clamor for armed struggle by sectors that really [words indistinct] and to achieve our people's freedom.

Political Leaders on Events

PA0311003789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2313 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The guerrillas' announcement today that they decided to suspend their dialogue with the Salvadoran Government caused great surprise among various circles in the country that vowed to make new efforts to reestablish them.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) suspended its dialogue with the government of President Alfredo Cristiani to protest a dynamite attack on the headquarters of a labor union on 31 October that left 10 dead and 30 injured.

According to the guerrillas, the government and the Armed Forces are responsible for the dynamite attack on the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS).

The FMLN, in a communique signed by its top five leaders, stated that "we must not allow our presence in the dialogue to be used to cover up the government's responsibility for that massacre."

It also demanded that the OAS, United Nations, and the church offer guarantees to El Salvador's opposition groups.

Reverend Edgar Palacios, coordinator of the Permanent Committee for the National Dialogue (CPDN), which is composed of over 60 social organizations, told ACAN-EFE that "we regret this kind of decision very much, but we will immediately contact the guerrillas to try to resume the dialogue."

Palacios added that "if the door of dialogue and negotiation is closed, the door of war will open."

Eduardo Colindres, leader of the Christian Democratic Party, the main opposition party, said that the dialogue between the government and the guerrillas "must continue."

"The government of the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) must investigate and punish those responsible for the crime committed against FENASTRAS; however, the dialogue must not be suspended," Colindres added.

Juan Jose Martel, leader of the Social Christian People's Movement (MPSC), which is a member of the leftist Democratic Convergence, expressed surprise over the guerrillas' decision.

Martel said that right-wing Salvadoran groups are trying to eliminate the dialogue process, which seeks to end the war through negotiated political means.

So far, no government spokesman has reacted to the FMLN's decision to suspend the dialogue that began in mid-September and would have continued on 20 and 21 November in Caracas, Venezuela.

Palacios, along with other religious, political, and labor leaders, headed a march to accompany the bodies of 10 workers who were killed during the dynamite attack on the FENASTRAS headquarters in downtown San Salvador, only 200 meters from a National Police garrison.

The union members' bodies, including that of FENASTRAS leader Febe Elizabeth Velasquez, were accompanied by several thousand workers who shouted antigovernment slogans and carried red flowers.

Tension was high during the march, mainly because of the heavy military presence in San Salvador's main streets and because the union members detained at least 30 plainclothes policemen who, according to the unionists, infiltrated the demonstration.

The march ended at the General Cemetery where the bodies of the union members were buried.

Further Reaction to Rebel Action

PA0311044489 Paris AFP in Spanish 0332 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Nov (AFP)—El Salvador's largest organization of labor unions, associations, and religious groups today regretted the leftist guerrillas' decision to suspend their dialogue with the government and expressed hope that this measure is not "irrevocable."

Reverend Edgar Palacios, the main representative of the Baptist Church and coordinator of the Permanent Committee for the National Dialogue for Peace, comprising about 65 organizations, told the press Alfredo Cristiani's rightist government has given no indication it wants peace.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's (FMLN) General Command announced in a communique on 2 November that it had canceled another round of the dialogue scheduled for 20-21 November in Caracas, Venezuela, which were to continue talks that began in September to end a 10-year civil war.

The rebels claimed an intensification of repression and blamed the government and the Armed Forces for the murder of 10 union members in a dynamite attack in San Salvador on 31 October and for other attacks on humanitarian organizations and leftist politicians.

Guillermo Rojas, leader of the National Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), the main opposition labor union, termed the dialogue suspension as "logical." Rojas said Cristiani has given no indications he indeed wants peace; quite the contrary, he has "declared war on the Salvadoran people by ordering attacks on labor union headquarters."

Meanwhile, Aronette Diaz, president of the leftist Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN), said the current situation in El Salvador is worrisome because "it cannot take any more violence than it is already enduring."

"The only thing left is for tanks be deployed to machinegun all of us," she added.

Labor Unions Support Guerrillas

PA0311150889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1330 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—Leaders of the main opposition labor unions in El Salvador today voiced support for the guerrillas' decision to suspend dialogue with the government until it commits itself to guaranteeing the human rights of the members of the people's organizations.

The Salvadoran guerrillas decided to suspend the dialogue process with the government following the 31 October dynamite attack that left 10 dead and 30 wounded, and also demanded that the United Nations, the OAS, and the Catholic Church provide "guarantees for the opposition organizations."

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) decision coincided with the burial of the 10 union leaders killed in the bomb explosion at the headquarters of the opposition Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS).

In a communique, the FMLN insisted that the dynamite attack against FENASTRAS "was planned by Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, approved by the president (Alfredo Cristiani), and carried out by Colonel Elena Fuentes."

In the communique signed by its top five commanders, the FMLN added that "we must prevent our presence in the dialogue from being used to cover up the government's responsibility in this slaughter."

Humberto Centeno, leader of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), which claims to have a membership of 200,000 persons, said that "this is a logical and correct decision because the government has declared war on the workers and not on the FMLN."

Orlando Arevalo, leader of the National Peasant Workers Unity—of a Christian Democratic trend—wondered if it was worth it for the Marxist guerrillas to hold a dialogue with the rightist government while "the people are being murdered."

Political leaders of Social Democratic and Christian Democratic leanings voiced their concern over the suspension of the peace talks and committed themselves to contacting the FMLN leaders to make them reconsider not attending the third round of the dialogue that was slated for 20 and 21 November in Caracas (Venezuela).

Edgar Palacios, coordinator of the Permanent Committee for the National Dialogue (CPDN), regretted the FMLN's decision and warned that "when the doors to dialogue are closed, the doors to war are opened."

Several opposition leaders pointed out that the suspension of the talks will worsen the war and will bring more

bloodshed, but this opinion was not shared by the workers, who stated they are "victims of an open war by the government."

Centeno added: "What more will happen? The only thing missing is for the tanks to roll down the streets against us. We have been attacked, and we—the workers—have not murdered anyone. We have participated in political debates and demand that the government meet our basic needs."

The government and the FMLN began a dialogue in September in Mexico. In the first meeting, they agreed to meet in Costa Rica in October to draft a cease-fire that will end an internal war that has left over 70,000 dead in 9 years.

Thousands Attend Union Members' Funeral

PA0311131989 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Religious, political, and union leaders headed the funeral march of the 10 union members killed in the dynamite attack against FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] headquarters, located in the center of San Salvador, only 200 meters from the police headquarters. The union members' bodies, including FENASTRAS leader Fede Elizabeth Velasquez, were accompanied by several thousand workers who shouted antigovernment slogans and carried red flowers. The march took place amidst much tension because of the large number of military troops in San Salvador's main streets and because union members stopped at least 30 policemen dressed in civilian clothes who, according to the unionists, had infiltrated the demonstration. The march ended at the La Bermeja cemetery, where the union members' bodies were buried.

Terrorist Attacks Condemned

PA0311034889 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 1 Nov 89 p 32

[Communique from the Salvadoran National Communications Secretariat issued on 31 October—place not given]

[Text] The Government of El Salvador strongly condemns the terrorist attacks carried out with explosives today against the Committee of Mothers of Political Prisoners and Missing in El Salvador and against the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation. As a result of these attacks, several persons were wounded and others died. The government offers its condolences.

The government repudiates these irrational and criminal actions and the terrorist attack carried out on 30 October by the FMLN against the Armed Forces Staff installations, where 1 civilian died and 14 others were wounded. It is evident that these actions are part of a plot whose objective is to block the dialogue initiated by President Alfredo Cristiani.

The government has ordered a careful investigation to determine what happened and to file charges against criminal groups that have unleashed this increased wave of terrorist violence to create a climate of unrest and to block the road to peace.

Finally, the Government of El Salvador reaffirms its determination to continue the search for peace through the dialogue, and it states that in spite of these bloody events, Salvadorans must remain calm and not give up hopes to find a solution to the conflict through civilized means.

31 October 1989, National Secretariat of Communications.

3d Brigade Commander on Actions in Eastern Sector

PA0311135689 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 1 Nov 89 p 5

[Text] Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, commander of the 3rd Infantry Brigade, reported on 31 October that between January and September, the Army had inflicted 800 casualties on the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and seized 300 weapons in the eastern area of the country. Col Vargas added that the Army suffered 443 casualties during the same period. The military commander of the area added that 393 guerrillas were killed and 310 wounded in more than 600 clashes and that 143 soldiers were killed and 300 wounded.

"Qualitative changes have taken place in the 3rd Infantry Brigade since 1984, when the FMLN changed its overall strategy from seizing power by military means to the extended people's war whose basic element is the uprising of the masses," Col Vargas said.

Vargas added that despite rebel actions, the Armed Forces have carried out the government's plans and are promoting the "Eastern 89" plan in 18 municipalities with 40 million colons to cover the collective and individual needs of the people. They are preparing a second phase of the plan, which will include the other three departments.

Vargas also reported that, because 30 percent of the country's coffee is grown in the eastern sector of the country, the Army is carrying out combing operations to protect the people of the area during the coffee harvest.

Regarding the government - FMLN dialogue held in Costa Rica, which he attended as advisor for the government commission, Vargas said the Armed Forces continue to support the government's democratic nature. "There is someone who is trying to hinder the dialogue and peace. We reject all charges of involvement in the recent acts of violence and attacks and publicly reiterate our total support for the country's peace process," Vargas added.

Guerrillas Attack San Salvador Power Substation

PA0311015589 Paris AFP in Spanish 0129 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 2 Nov (AFP)—It was officially reported that a policeman was wounded today when urban guerrillas attacked the guards at a power substation located in downtown San Salvador.

Several urban guerrillas opened fired on members of the National Police who were guarding a Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission (CEL) substation that was damaged during the attack.

The wounded policeman was immediately taken to the Military Hospital in San Salvador.

The attack occurred at 1130 (1730 GMT)—less than 3 hours before a demonstration through the main streets of San Salvador began. The demonstrators attended the funeral of the 10 union leaders who were killed on 31 October during an attack on a union headquarters.

The police stepped up surveillance throughout San Salvador to prevent new acts of violence.

On 1 November urban guerrillas attacked the headquarters of the 1st Infantry Brigade with rockets. During the attack, one person was killed and another wounded.

Guatemala

Congress Authorizes Purchase of Military Planes

PA0211135789 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 25 Oct 89 p 5

[Text] Through decree No 57-89, the Congress of the Republic authorized on 24 October the purchase of two G-222 military transport planes at a cost of $36,273,340.

The airplanes will be acquired through a contract between Aeritalia and the Ministry of Defense and will be used to carry out peace actions and other activities assigned to the Guatemalan Army.

It was reported that, prior to the congressional authorization, the Monetary Board and the General Secretariat of Economic Planning had approved the purchase.

Accused Right-Wing Leader Flees to Honduras

PA0211130289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2318 GMT 25 Oct 89

[Text] Guatemalan Defense Minister General Alejandro Gramajo confirmed today that right-wing leader Leonel Sisniega Otero, accused of involvement in terrorist actions, is now a refugee in Honduras and is currently preparing a "dramatic return".

The minister confirmed that Otero was not arrested, as his relatives claim, and that the former presidential candidate of the Anticommunist Unification Party (PUA) in the 1985 elections, is preparing a "political show".

General Gramajo explained to the media that "Sisniega Otero is preparing a dramatic return, sporting a beard, to claim he was kept in a secret jail—but the authorities have already been alerted," he emphasized.

Otero is accused by the security forces of involvement in acts of terrorism that have caused dozens of casualties over the past 2 months.

The father-in-law of Alfonso Cabrera, presidential candidate of the government's Christian Democratic Party; Roberto Martinez Pena; and Maximiliano Archila Pellecer have been arrested on the same charges.

A bulletin from the Presidency states that relevant reports are being sent to the courts of justice so they may in turn request Sisniega Otero's extradition from Honduras.

Honduras

Azcona Reacts to Ortega's Cease-Fire Suspension

PA0211155889 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Report by Giovanni Garcia]

[Text] The official reaction in Honduras to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's announcement that the cease-fire will be suspended in that country was immediate. President Jose Azcona said:

[Begin Azcona recording] We will wait to see what the outcome will be if the cease-fire is suspended. If there are no counterrevolutionaries attacking the government forces, perhaps there will be no more dead Nicaraguans. That is what we want. We do not want any more bloodshed in that country. [end recording]

The Honduran president hopes reactivation of the armed clashes between the Nicaraguan rebels and the Sandinist government will cause a political solution, thus averting a setback in the Central American peace process. The government believes that with the assistance of the UN international peace force, which will be installed in the coming days along the border zone, contra incursions into Nicaragua and the ensuing clashes will be averted. Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega made the initial announcement at the Costa Rican presidential summit last week that he would suspend the cease-fire. He confirmed that announcement today. It represents a harsh setback for the peace efforts in the area.

Meanwhile, according to the president, he has asked Ortega to reconsider his position and said he is willing to participate in the upcoming Central American presidential summit scheduled to be held in Nicaragua, along with the candidate who is elected to replace him as the new Honduran president.

Official Reaction to Statement

PA0211165589 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Report by Jose Rolando Sarmiento]

[Text] The seat of the United Nations and the OAS, which composes the International Support and Verification Commission, CIAV, greeted with surprise the official announcement made by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega on the suspension of the cease-fire. Regarding this, the Honduran Government, through the Foreign Affairs Ministry, has announced its official stand:

The Honduran Government has received with surprise the Nicaraguan Government's decision to suspend the cease-fire it had been observing since March 1988. This situation could hinder the prompt implementation of the Tela agreements, which were reached by common agreement among the five Central American presidents.

The suspension of the cease-fire and the nongranting of a total and unconditional amnesty on the part of the Nicaraguan Government are not incentives for the demobilization and repatriation of the members of the counterrevolution. Also, our attention is drawn to the Sandinist government's public call that the Honduran Government participate with members of the CIAV and the counterrevolution at a meeting at UN headquarters this coming week. In this regard, the government wants to make it clear that Honduras has fulfilled all its obligations regarding the implementation of the Tela agreements. It has cooperated closely with the CIAV and the ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America].

Furthermore, it has also asked the president of the UN Security Council to ask that an international peacekeeping force be established, in the event there are still remnants of the Nicaraguan resistance in Honduran territory, after the CIAV concludes its mission. The Honduran Government wishes to recall that the demobilization and repatriation plan is an agreement adopted by the five Central American presidents, who appointed the CIAV to ensure its implementation.

The Foreign Affairs Secretariat reiterates that it has never recognized the insurgent status of the Nicaraguan resistance. Consequently, it does not represent, for the Honduran Government, a valid interlocutor with whom it should negotiate.

According to the spirit and letter of the Tela agreements, the Sandinist government committed itself to seek a negotiated solution to the problem of disarmament and repatriation of its armed opposition with the assistance of the CIAV.

Based on the will expressed by the five presidents at the Tela summit, the Honduran Government has only to assist in the implementation of the joint plan of demobilization and repatriation, as it in fact has been doing.

This is the official statement issued by the Foreign Ministry regarding the decision made by the Nicaraguan Sandinist Government to suspend the cease-fire, which hinders the efforts the five Central American presidents had been making, in keeping with the Tela agreements and with the CIAV, for the demobilization and repatriation of the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance and their family members to Nicaragua or to third countries.

It should be clear that Honduras has fulfilled all of its commitments for which it is responsible.

CODEH: State Security Responsible for Murders

PA0211134789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2040 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Human Rights Defense Committee (CODEH) said today that violations of human rights guarantees continue in this country and denounced summary executions, political assassinations, and intimidatory campaigns against people's leaders.

CODEH President Ramon Custodio issued a document accusing state security organizations of being linked to a series of criminals acts.

CODEH stressed that the military unit in charge of "repression is Battalion 3-16, led by Colonel Alberto Andino Benitez." Battalion 3-16 was created in 1982 as an intelligence unit and has been accused of encouraging the murder and kidnapping of opposition politicians. This version was rejected by the Armed Forces, who insist that the "3-16" was abolished more than 2 years ago.

CODEH says that in Honduras, "facts prove that violations to human rights are serious and that the authorities in charge of investigating and sanctioning them publicly declare their lack of resolve and ability to do so."

According to CODEH's version, in Honduras over the past 9 years, more than 140 people have disappeared and about 60 have been killed for political reasons.

Nicaragua

Further Coverage of Continuing Cease-Fire Debate

Media Debates Suspension

PA0211174989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1529 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 2 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan media disagreed today about the Sandinist government's measure to end the unilateral cease-fire against the contras that was announced by President Daniel Ortega after the rebels increased their attacks.

The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, on its editorial page, analyzed Ortega's suspension of the cease-fire and asserted that the Nicaraguan president's "stubborness"

had "created a serious situation and had promoted the contras to the international field."

After announcing the suspension of the truce on 1 November, Ortega called for a meeting with representatives from the Honduran Government, the contras, and the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV), which is in charge of implementing the rebel demobilization. The purpose of the meeting is to hasten the dismantling of the anti-Sandinists; it is scheduled to be held at the United Nations on 6-7 November.

LA PRENSA commented that Ortega's call "gave the contras a standing that they did not have previously. To take the contras to an international forum is to give them importance and Ortega has always denied them this importance." According to the newspaper owned by Violeta Chamorro, the opposition's presidential candidate, Ortega's "stubbornness" has placed the Nicaraguan rebels on an equal footing with the "National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and its leader Jonas Savimbi, who have international standing."

The opposition newspaper's long editorial openly accuses President Daniel Ortega's government of "paving the way for the renewal of war" and also questioned the official version of the bloody events that motivated suspension of the cease-fire. The newspaper said that the reasons used by Ortega were "exaggerated and contrived."

BARRICADA, the governing Sandinist Front's newspaper, noted in its editorial today that suspending the cease-fire was the "correct decision" and repeated Ortega's words that the measure "placed the contras demobilization on the Latin American and U.S. agendas."

The Sandinist newspaper also stated that "we have shaken up international awareness at the right time, as the world was showing signs of accommodating and accepting a never-ending war."

Furthermore, BARRICADA's editorial judged that the government's truce suspension "was in total compliance with its duties, but, more than this, the people had the right to implement this measure."

The newspaper noted that "the trail of casualties and the dozens of homes that are in mourning because of the mercenaries' latest actions cannot continue without punishment and cannot continue to occur with the support of what was a gesture of goodwill by our officials."

The progovernment EL NUEVO DIARIO noted that the United States used the cease-fire to "promote contra attacks" with the objective of jeopardizing the electoral process.

Suspension Could Affect Elections

PA0211145889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1348 GMT 2 Nov 89

[By Jose Antonio Maillo]

[Text] Managua, 2 Nov (EFE)—The greatest concern of Nicaraguan political groups regarding the Sandinist government's decision to suspend the cease-fire with the contras lies in the possibility that the measure could adversely affect the election processs next February. Despite the wave of criticism that has resulted from the decision by the Managua government, local observers point out that, for the time being, the suspension of the cease-fire decreed yesterday is meant to create an effect rather than immediate results.

"If the decision by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega remains a simple announcement, Nicaragua would have accomplished its goal of having all the world's newspapers talking about the country, and his problem—the demobilization of the contras—would be discussed with renewed strength," a Latin American diplomat told EFE. The source, who preferred to remain anonymous, said he was surprised that at no time did Ortega talk about possible military attacks staged by the contras, about 1,000 rebels who have entered into Nicaraguan territory.

On the contrary, Ortega avoided the topic of military initiatives and proposed a meeting at the United Nations on 6-7 November with representatives from the contra leadership, the Honduran Government, and the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV), which comprises the OAS and UN delegations. The Nicaraguan contras remain in Honduran territory.

In addition, Managua has not repealed the law that prevents the recruitment of youths for military service. The law was enacted last August following the Central American summit in Tela, Honduras and will remain in effect until 25 February, when the elections will be held. "The lack of an announcement calling for military action and the preservation of the law that prevents recruitment of youths until February shows that Managua expects reactions from the parties involved—the United States, the contras, the Honduran Government, and even the opposition," the diplomatic source said.

The meeting proposed by Nicaragua already has the support of Enrique Bermudez, military chief of the contras, who said in Tegucigalpa that he is willing to negotiate a new cease-fire with the Sandinists. A Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry official said that it is unlikely there will be significant armed actions between now and the date of the UN meeting.

The official said that the Nicaraguan delegation to the meeting will be composed of: Deputy Foreign Minister Hugo Tinoco, General Staff Chief Joaquin Cuadra, Minister of Social Security and Welfare Reinaldo Teffel, Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock, and Commander Luis Guzman.

Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan opposition is convinced that the government has decreed a suspension of the cease-fire to prevent the normal development of the elections. According to the opposition, the Sandinists, claiming security reasons, will decree special measures for certain rural areas, thereby hindering the electoral process. Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, referring to this possiblity said: "If there is an escalation of the war in the mountains, the peasants will not be able to cast their votes."

Observers were surprised by the Sandinist government's "nerve" in announcing the end to the cease-fire during the "summit" meeting of 17 American presidents in San Jose over the weekend. Press circles in San Jose yesterday commented that the Sandinists could have easily engaged in military operations without announcing them publicly, much less during the San Jose meeting.

Other circles point out to the "impasse" in the contra demobilization process, for which the Central American presidents had set a 5 December deadline, and Managua's effort to reactivate this process through announcement of the suspension of the cease-fire. The opposition has doubted the reason given by the Sandinists for suspending the cease-fire—the worsening of the rebel attacks against civilians. The opposition claims that the deaths have been the result of disputes between cooperative members over land boundaries.

Observers believe that it is too soon to judge the consequences of the of the cease-fire suspension announcement. If agreement is reached at the UN meeting, then the Sandinists will simply have swallowed their pride by being seated at the same table with contra leaders, but they might have succeeded in speeding the demobilization process along, which is the Sandinists' main goal.

Ortega: Elections on Schedule

PA0311133989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1205 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega confirmed on 2 November that national elections will take place on 25 February 1990 because that is the will of the Nicaraguan people. He added that U.S. military intervention would be the only reason for their suspension.

However, Ortega said that for the moment, he does not foresee a U.S. invasion, and noted that the Bush administration reacted cautiously and constructively to the suspension of the cease-fire.

Ortega stressed he hopes the Honduran Government, the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] and a contra delegation will attend the meeting at the United Nations with a constructive and peaceful attitude in order to agree on the demobilization of the mercenary forces.

Ortega reiterated that once the process progressess, Nicaragua is willing to restore the cease-fire. He stressed that the subject to be discussed at the United Nations will not be the cease-fire, but the demobilization of the contras to end the war.

UNO Condemns Government Stand

PA0211185589 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Nicaraguan opposition vice presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy, as official spokesperson for the National Opposition Union [UNO], said that the opposition union is observing how the Sandinist Front is gradually harshening its position [words indistinct]. Dr Virgilio Godoy made the statement [words indistinct].

[Begin Godoy recording] For several days, UNO has observed a gradual harshening of the Sandinist Government. A few days ago, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced in San Jose, Costa Rica, his decision to suspend the cease-fire that had been maintained in our country for more than 1 and ½ years. This means that as of today, the Sandinists and the Ortega brothers are beginning a new military escalation that could soon lead to a resurgence of the war and a heightening of the crisis that exists in the country.

The UNO firmly condemns the decision by the Sandinist government, because it considers it not to contribute at all toward the peace process begun on 7 August 1987 with the signing of the Esquipulas agreements, and not to contribute toward fulfilling the commitments achieved in Alajuela, El Salvador, and in Tela, Honduras.

The UNO believes that the decision by the government of the Sandinists and the Ortega brothers has little to do with the military situation, has a lot to do with the electoral issue.

President Ortega suggested this morning that the new situation may eventually lead to the suspension or cancellation of the electoral process per se.

Therefore, we must admit—as of now—that the measure announced by the government of the Ortega brothers is a measure that principally, directly, and catogorically is directed at the heart of the electoral campaign, which was to begin this coming 3 December and which, as of today, is apparently facing serious risks. [end recording]

United Nations Demobilization Talks Organized

Contra Leader Agrees to Talks

PA0211205189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2002 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Nov (DPA)—Enrique Bermudez, military leader of the anti-Sandinist rebels, today accepted the dialogue offer made by President Daniel Ortega's government to discuss the reinstatement of the cease-fire in Nicaragua.

According to Bermudez' statements today in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, he did not receive a formal proposal from the Nicaraguan Government, but "we agree in principle," he said. The guerrilla leader said that he expects the UN and OAS international observers to send him the agenda that will be discussed.

The Nicaraguan Government yesterday ended the cease-fire in the war with the U.S.-supported rebels, but at the same time it proposed negotiations with the contras at UN headquarters in New York on 6 and 7 November.

Bermudez, meanwhile, proposed the headquarters of the OAS in Washington as a possible site for the meeting. Bermudez added that among his preconditions would be the implementation of a cease-fire for the duration of the talks. He would also agree, he said, to having Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo participate as a witness to the dialogue.

Ministry Appoints Mission

PA0211140689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0621 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 1 Nov (AFP)—The Foreign Ministry today appointed the official delegation to participate in the meeting proposed by the Nicaraguan Government to discuss the demobilizationa of the "contras" at the United Nations .

The commission will be comprised of Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco; Major General Joaquin Cuadra, Army chief of staff; Major [rank as received] Ricardo Wheelock; chief of the Military Intelligence Directorate; and U.S. Adviser Paul Reichler, according to the official announcement. Nicaragua asked the secretaries general of the United Nations (UN) and Organization of American States (OAS), Javier Perez de Cuellar and Joao Baena Soares, respectively, on 1 November to "make the necessary arrangements" to hold a meeting with Honduras and a representative of the "contras," to try to achieve the demobilization of the contras.

According to the proposal, the meeting will be held on 6-7 November at UN Headquarters, with the participation of the International Verification and Support Commission (CIAV), which includes representatives of the two international organizations who will verify the demobilization.

The meeting proposed by President Daniel Ortega would seek to "approve the logistical and technical aspects that will permit a return to the country and integration into the political process of those persons involved with the contras."

Obando y Bravo Supports Ortega

PA0211151889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] On 1 November, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, president of the national reconciliation commission, expressed agreement with President Daniel Ortega's position and said that he favored the [word indistinct], promotion, and defense of life. After a regular meeting of the reconciliation commission, Obando y Bravo said that Nicaragua's main problem was not whether a cease-fire was in effect in the country but rather finding an end to the war. This is the position held by the Nicaraguan president. The prelate called for the leaders to exercise maturity and good sense in attaining peace and democracy in the country and also offered to mediate with the Honduran Government, the (word indistinct), and the contras at the United Nations. The cardinal accepted the fact that he had not been invited to the meeting, but offered his services in helping to avoid more bloodshed in the country at the meeting that has been called by the Nicaraguan Government to discuss the contra demobilization.

Further on Obando y Bravo

PA0211232089 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2013 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has accepted an invitation from President Daniel Ortega to act as witness to the meeting to be held on 6 and 7 November at UN headquarters in New York between Honduran and Nicaraguan delegations, the International Commission of Support and Verification [CIAV], and the counterrevolutionaries.

The invitation was made personally by President Ortega, who visited Cardinal Obando in his Managua office. We will first listen to President Ortega as he explains the reason for his visit. Then we will hear the acceptance statement by Cardinal Obando.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] [Words indistinct] I have spoken with His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando to ask him to participate as a witness in the meeting that Nicaragua has proposed for 6 and 7 November at the United Nations. The Honduran Government, CIAV, [word indistinct], the Nicaraguan Government, and the contras will be represented. The idea is to act with a constructive spirit, with the spirit of peace that should prevail in all of us now that Christmas is approaching, so that the contra demobilization plan is implemented. We should go to that meeting with the spirit of putting an end to the war.

Under such conditions, the Government of Nicaragua would be expected [esta supesta] to reestablish the cease-fire.

The Nicaraguan Government is willing to reestablish the cease - fire as the contra demobilization plan is implemented. This must be very clear. This is not a matter of

turning the cease - fire into the main issue. This would mean passively accepting a continuation of the war. The idea is to discuss the end of the war, taking into consideration the fact that there is a Central American presidents' agreement which was signed on 7 August and which established 5 December as the deadline for demobilizing the contras from Honduran territory. This would be the best gift we can give to the Nicaraguan people for Christmas and for the end of the year. This would be the gift of peace. The idea is to arrive at the month of December, when coincidentally the election process officially begins, with an atmosphere of true peace, with the war being over once and for all.

This has been my request today to His Eminence Cardinal Obando, after taking into consideration his concern for and efforts for peace in Nicaragua. Today I have once again asked him to participate in the peace process.

[Obando] We, as church people and as Nicaraguans, want our people to have peace. We have always been concerned over the spilling of blood. Because of this, we will always try to help as much as we can and we have accepted going to New York to act as witness at that meeting [words indistinct] a formula that will allow the Nicaraguans to live in peace, fraternally, and working for the well - being of this Nicaragua we so much love.

[Reporter] Mr President, what could make the 25 February elections unfeasible?

[Ortega] The elections will be held on 25 February because this is the will of the Nicaraguan people. [end recording]

Reportage of Government Offensive Against Contras

EPS Commanders on Campaign

PA0311135089 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Oct 89 p 5

[Report by Juan Ramon Huerta]

[Text] Matagalpa—Sandinist People's Army [EPS] Major Alejandro Arce and Subcommander Orlando Talavera, regional operations commanders of the EPS and of the State Security corps, respectively, have told BARRICADA that the Battalions for Unconventional Warfare [BLI] and self-defense units and as Interior Ministry special troops will go vigorously into action to respond to the latest terrorist activities of isolated counterrevolutionaries—estimated to number 1,200 in the Matagalpa region—if they stay in the region.

Maj Arce said: "They will get a taste of offensive actions by our troops." Subcommander Talavera has reported that 18 contras have been killed in the past 3 days as a result of clashes with Filemon Rivera troops and BLI forces in the areas of Saiz, Matiguas, and Sacacli, north of Jinotega.

Maj Arce said that during the EPS cease-fire period, the contras infiltrated at least 600 men to the eastern shore of the Tuma River and to areas north and south of the Blanco River to establish contact with supporters, plan terrorist activities, and draft political propaganda for the pro-U.S. National Opposition Union [UNO].

Arce and Talavera said that at the sites of the most recent clashes, the contras left behind documents outlining missions to support the political work of the rightist UNO and terrorist activities against strategic objectives such as cooperatives near Matiguas and the Centroamerica Plant in Jinotega, plans that have been thwarted in the past 3 days.

Subcommander Talavera said: "We are going to act vigorously. We are not going to let them continue murdering the peasants. We are not going to let them get close to the Centroamerica plant."

Talavera said that one big Sandinist response was delivered on 27 October in Saiz. It was an action against forces of the contras' 15 September Regional Command, the forces that on 21 October killed 18 EPS reserve soldiers. Ten contras were annihilated, including the contra chieftain, Leonel, when they were taking away 10 peasants they had kidnapped. The peasants were able to escape. This contra force was also prevented from attacking the Saiz cooperative.

In Sacacli, on 27 October, a group under the command of "Juan Caballo" and "Kaliman" that was heading for the Centroamerica Plant was repelled. The fighting left four contras dead, including the group's communications chief. The authorities also seized documents with messages to help in the recruitment of peasants for UNO.

On 28 October, combined EPS - Interior Ministry forces fought the same group in Las Horquetas. As a result of this, two contras died, three were wounded, and one of our people fell, Talaveras noted. "We are not going to permit more terrorist activities during the elections period," he said.

These forces do not represent a military threat, but they are a threat to the peasants who in recent months have suffered 95 killed, 58 wounded, and 96 kidnapped, Arce said. A total of 500 civilian peasants have been affected during the EPS cease-fire period, he noted

Arce commented: It is true that the contras have increased the size of their forces in the region since the International Commission of Support and Verification visited their camps in Honduras, but they have no military capacity to carry out any major action. A cease-fire suspension would mean strengthening self-defense mechanisms and the readiness of our forces, Arce said. He noted that the units that have been used all this time to protect roads, facilities, and peasants in the area will be available again.

Arce stated: "As an institution we have been the ones most negatively affected by the death of our comrades and the damage done to our equipment, but we can say

with pride that we maintained discipline and calm and obeyed our high command's orders. Now, with joy, with a better disposition, and with all our forces, we are going to finish off every single contra."

Goal Elimination of Contras

PA0211145589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The faithful pups of the patriotic military service have reported that one of their main goals is to start an offensive to eliminate whatever is left of the contra forces. This was expressed by youth leader Ayax Delgado who also said that thousands of youth who are complying with their military service will lift their rifles to counter the contra's criminal actions. Delgado said that the youths are the ones most interested in attaining peace as soon as possible, as they are the ones who have directly felt the mercenary attacks. Let us listen to him:

[Begin Delgado recording] First, we have to understand that the recruitment of youth for patriotic military service has been suspended. Our efforts are geared toward the implemention of proposals that have been given by our youth. The young, presently complying with the patriotic military service, have stated that they are willing to lift their rifles to fight as there is a need to launch a final offensive against the mercenary forces and defeat them completely.[end recording]

Ministry on New Rebel Actions

PA0211150389 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] A Defense Ministry report indicates that contras have continued their criminal activities and have caused the death of 15 additional peasants over the past few days.

Contra groups kidnapped and cut the throats of four peasants in [word indistinct] La Perla, near Rio Blanco Municipality because they refused to shout viva to the rightist UNO [National Opposition Union] alliance, which is the contra's political arm. The victims' relatives said that contras attacked the homes of these poor civilians and later took them by force and slit their throats because they did not want to repeat slogans favoring UNO.

The report indicated that between 100 and 200 contras who had just arrived from Honduras slit the throats of 2 young men who had just ended their patriotic military service and were unarmed in Cuatro Esquinas in Pantasmas Muncipality.

The Defense Ministry also noted that seven more peasants were murdered in cold blood in La Vigia and La Piragua on 31 October.

Army Receives Weapons, Orders

PA0211153689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] In compliance with the government's orders to stop the unilateral cease-fire, all the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] units in the Region I have been resupplied with weapons and ammunition to be able to take an offensive stance against the contras. Major Daniel Pozo, who is the 1st Region's chief of General Staff, reported that the Rapid Hunter and [word indistinct] Battalions and all combat, artillery, and antiaircraft units have been ordered to seek and anihilitate the contras that have recently entered the country. The high-ranking EPS officer reported that community self-defense mechanisms have been revised in municipalities such as Quilali, San Juan del Rio Coco, San Rafael del Norte, and other areas where the contras have recently attacked. It was reported that a 30-man mercenary group, headed by a rebel named Douglas, clashed with San Gregorio militias and a territorial defense company in Santa Rosa.

Commander on Elections, Fighting

PA0211161689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1230 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Colonel Roberto Calderon, 5th military region commander, stated that his men can ensure the security of the electoral process. The officer stated that his men had always respected the cease-fire decree but, now that the president has suspended the cease-fire, they are ready to start an offensive against the mercenaries. He said they estimated that approximately 600 additional contras have been infiltrated into the country. These mercenaries, he added, have been resupplied with weapons and ammunition and their objective is to continue mercenary actions in the regions of La Pinuela, Rio Nico, Rama Highway, southern Acoyapa, and other places.

[Begin Calderon recording] The war has continued in this military region during the year. Military actions have continued, and during the 304 days that have elapsed in 1989, we have had a total of almost 700 clashes—699 clashes to be exact—which is an average of 2.2 clashes per day during all the days that have elapsed in 1989. It is an average of 2.29, almost 2.3 clashes per day. These clashes left 570 dead during this year, [words indistinct]—only in the 5th region—and this amount includes counterrevolutionaries, our troops, and civilians. So, there is an average of almost two persons killed per day, two persons per day [repeats himself]. There have been 1,695 people who have been killed, wounded, disappeared, kidnapped, maimed, [word indistinct] by the contras. These are the war victims during 1989. [word indistinct] people are killed every day and the counterrevolutionaries continues to attack and murder. The roads have been and continue to be very dangerous, as the contras are mining them to attack our troops. We have found that the counterrevolutionaries that have been captured or are in combat have new weapons. We

have found Claymore mines that have recently arrived from storage. The mercenaries that come from Honduras have ample war materiel obtained with the supposed humanitarian aid. This aid has supplied the counterrevolutionaries with uniforms, boots, ammunition, and mines so that they can come and murder our soldiers and the civilian population. [end recording]

New Battles Reported

PA0211230489 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Military sources have reported that the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] is ready to engage in combat in the wake of the government's decision not to extend a suspension of offensive operations, and, as a result, there have already been clashes with the contras.

They confirmed that in Region 1, in the northern part of the country, troops led by experienced commanders began to be deployed immediately after President Ortega announced the suspension of the cease-fire. Two hours after the cease-fire was suspended, a company from Quilali Municipality, Las Delicias Region, clashed with 30 counterrevolutionaries. The results of this action are not yet known.

About 400 anti-Sandinists have entered the country from Honduras through Quilali, San Rafael del Norte, and the border area near Esteli within the past 20 days. They kidnapped and killed civilians and carried out propaganda work for the rightist National Opposition Union, UNO, the sources reported.

They added that all troops began to operate throughout the region and have been supplied with all the equipment and technical resources they need. Meanwhile, the 5th Region command announced the launching of a large-scale offensive to annihilate and evict more than 1,000 contras who entered this terrority during a 19-month cease-fire, which the government unilaterally maintained until 1 November.

The military sources stated that the EPS and the Battalions for Unconventional Warfare, BLI, are determined to engage in combat in the next few days against the anti-Sandinists, who in October alone carried out 25 terrorist actions. These actions left 30 dead, including 25 soldiers, 36 wounded, 28 missing, and 4 kidnapped civilians. Meanwhile, the contras sustained 34 killed, 12 captured, and 39 accepted the amnesty.

In Region 5 during the 10 months of 1989, there were 699 contra actions that resulted in 570 dead, including those within the aggressor's ranks, for an average of 2 killed each day.

Contras on Military Alert

PA0211193889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1810 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—A climate of unease returned to the Nicaraguan-Honduran border area today as the contras ordered their troops to a general alert. The measure is a precaution to enable the contras to confront a probable Sandinist Army offensive.

The contra command staff ordered the measure after Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced the suspension of the government's unilateral cease-fire that was in effect since March 1988.

Contra spokesman Commander Johnson told ACAN-EFE that "the general alert order is particularly for the 4,000 men who are in Nicaragua and must flee to avoid being eliminated."

The rebel source stated that the contras have been instructed not to fight and to return to Honduran territory if the Sandinist soldiers pursue them.

Johnson noted that "it is impossible (for the contras) to face direct combat as they do not have the weapons or the necessary logistics."

"Their orders are to hide, because there is no possibility of sending reinforcements," stated Commander Johnson to ACAN-EFE.

Meanwhile, at the contras main headquarters in Yamales—Honduran territory close to the border with Nicaragua—approximately 4,000 contras have increased their military training.

Military pressure has increased because several contra units that patrol Nicaraguan territory have reported to their command staff, headed by Colonel Enrique Bermudez, that "the Sandinists are concentrating their troops in strategic areas."

In this respect, the contra patrols have reported that the Sandinist military presence has increased in Santa Clara, Jalapa, and Teotecacinte. These areas are all close to the Honduran border.

However, Johnson stated that the contras feel secure in their Honduran refuge as the Sandinists "will not dare cross the common border."

Honduras became the rearguard for thousands of armed anti-Sandinists and their civilian companions when the Nicaraguan Democratic Force was formed in 1981.

The contra troops are concentrated in El Paraiso Department, in eastern Honduras, and they control approximately 480 sq km of Honduran territory.

Quiet returned to this area slowly after the first regional peace agreements were signed in 1987. However, unease returned to the Honduran civilian population when hostilities were renewed on a large scale.

Responding to the concern expressed by the Honduran public, President Jose Azcona has stated—twice in the past 24 hours—that "we continue to support the contra demobilization."

The president said he hoped the consequences of suspending the cease-fire would not be so serious that they

would jeopardize the Tela peace agreements signed by the Central American presidents in August 1989.

"We are calling the Group of UN Observers (ONUCA) to neutralize any serious situation," said the Honduran president.

His proposal has been backed by several Honduran public opinion sectors who favor the contra demobilization, relocation, and repatriation being hastened and fully carried out before the Nicaraguan 25 February 1990 elections.

The past Central American presidents summit set the deadline for contra demobilization to 5 December. It appears that the date that was agreed upon for the contra demobilization will be difficult to attain in the present context of tension and delays.

Sandinist Army Offensive Reported

PA0211224889 Paris AFP in Spanish 2046 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Nov (AFP)—The Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) today said that following President Daniel Ortega's announcement on breaking the truce in Nicaragua, the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] launched "a large-scale offensive" with the support of helicopter gunships and heavy artillery.

Despite this, the contra directorate reiterated "its will to exhaust the political path of dialogue and negotiation," expressed yesterday by its top military leader, Colonel Enrique Bermudez.

Two communiques issued by the RN General Staff and released today in this capital city state that the rebels were attacked in the regions of La Sirena and Batitan, in Central Zelaya, where EPS troops are being helped by artillery and helicopters armed with missiles.

The operations, the communique states, "have claimed lives" among the civilian population, which is facing "serious danger."

According to the RN, Interior Ministry troops, supported by armored vehicles and Soviet-made MI-8 helicopters, attacked contra commands in Sarawaca Hill, Jinotega Department.

The rebels added that the government troops are being led by Lieutenant Pedro Martinez and a political delegate identified as Bayardo.

The rebel general staff said that these actions "once again prove that the Sandinist regime does not want peace, and it is trying to continue the war to exterminate our forces."

The communiques add that the massive mobilization and the attacks on the contras, "along with the physical and verbal aggressions to which members of the Nicaraguan civic opposition in several towns have been subjected, are a clear violation of the peace agreements and the Tela meeting," where a plan for the demobilization of the contras was approved.

In the opinion of the RN, "the Sandinist regime is looking for an excuse to distort or put an end to the electoral process," in light of the "evident aversion to and rejection of the government by the Nicaraguan people, who are showing a growing support for the opposition."

However, the anti-Sandinist military leadership has reaffirmed "its will to exhaust the political path of dialogue."

Top contra leader Col Enrique Bermudez also said that he is willing to attend a meeting with the Sandinists on 6 and 7 November at the UN, as proposed yesterday by President Ortega, as long as one of the topics broached is the cease-fire.

However, the Nicaraguan president said that the meeting would only be held to discuss the mechanisms for the demobilization of the contras.

Government Condemns Union Attack in El Salvador

PA0211234889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2000 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government today condemned the dynamite attack on the headquarters of the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation [FENASTRAS].

A communique issued by the Presidency accuses the death squads of perpetrating the 31 October attack in which a powerful bomb exploded at the FENASTRAS headquarters killing nine people, including the well-known union leader Elizabeth Velazquez.

This terrorist attack against FENASTRAS, which revives recent history in the neighboring country, proves the criminal nature of the ultraright-wing forces serving imperialist interests, and reveals their true intentions, despite their hypocritical statements about desiring peace, freedom, and democracy, the document states.

The communique adds that this and other crimes oblige the Salvadoran Government to defend its people's human rights and to find and punish those who are guilty.

Shortly after the attack, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] said that it was carried out in response to the 30 October guerrilla attack on the Army's general staff headquarters.

Panama

Rodriguez Rules Out Reconciliation With U.S.

PA0211172389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 2 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—Panamanian President Francisco Rodriguez said today that the relations between the United States and his country cannot be "reconciled" as long as the U.S.

administration insists on carrying out what he described an "absurd, unjustifiable, and criminal aggression."

The Panamanian president made the statements at the end of a ceremony held today to commemorate All Soul's Day before the tombs of the first Panamanian president, Manuel Amador, and of the founder of the current regime, General Omar Torrijos, who died in 1981.

Rodriguez refused to comment on the presence of John Bushnell, the new U.S. Embassy charge d'affaires, and he made reference to a communique issued by the Foreign Ministry, which condemns the presence of U.S. officials, "who are not duly accredited" by the Panamanian Government.

The U.S. Government has an embassy in Panama, but it refuses to make official contact with the government of this country, which it does not recognize.

The various ceremonies organized on the occasion of All Souls' Day had a definite "anti-imperialist" tone to them. There were constant criticisms against the United States, whose rulers were accused of calling for the murder of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

In the key speech of the day, Panamanian Education Minister Juan Bosco Bernal charged that "during the past two U.S. Administrations, interventionist actions are progressively increasing against the right we have to live in peace."

Bernal added that "victory has always been and will always be on the side of people who struggle with dignity, intelligence, and courage against the foreign invader." Another speaker, Gustavo Torregloza, criticized "the seditious individuals, the plotters, and the traitors who have joined imperialism" clearly referring to the opposition.

Government on U.S. Diplomats' 'Irregular Status'

PA0211144589 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 2 Nov 89 p A-1

["Text" of Foreign Ministry communique issued 1 November]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry considers it necessary to remind the public that the U.S. diplomatic mission in our country is here with irregular status because its duty is to represent a government with which Panama currently does not have normal relations expressed through the exchange of representatives or diplomatic agents.

Meanwhile, among the U.S. Embassy personnel currently in Panama, there are some officials who have not been properly accredited before the Panamanian Government, including a supposed new charge d'affaires, as well as others who have been declared persona non grata; therefore, their presence here is another arbitrary action that violates the 1961 Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations.

To conclude, inasmuch as the situation of undeclared war continues against the Panamanian nation, and the Cabinet Council's decision forbidding all official contact with U.S. diplomats or agents not made through the Foreign Ministry remains in effect, negotiations and communications with U.S. officials, or attending events or parties held at the U.S. Embassy in Panama, are strictly the personal responsibility of those attending said events.

Rodriguez Says Expulsion From OAS Unlikely

PA0211221889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2040 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 2 Nov (DPA)—Panamanian head of state Francisco Rodriguez said today that it would be "absolutely absurd" for Panama to be expelled from the OAS at the OAS General Assembly session on 13 November.

Rodriguez made this statement after attending an All Souls Day ceremony. He said that Panama's expulsion "is possible" but noted that he does "not believe that such a decision will be made" against his country.

The OAS will soon begin a regular session of meetings, and the Panama crisis will be one of the issues to be discussed by this regional organization.

The Panamanian head of state cautioned: "As long as the absurd and criminal U.S. aggression against Panama continues, there is no way of reconciling Panama's interests" with those of the Bush administration.

Relations between the United States and Panama have been in a state of crisis for the past 2 years, since Washington decided to force General Manuel Antonio Noriega to relinquish power in Panama.

Opposition Urges Anti-Government Actions

PA0211213389 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Communique issued by the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance—date and place not given]

[Text] The narco-tyranny of Manuel Noriega, the greatest traitor our isthmian land has ever seen, is hopelessly and rapidly collapsing.

Noriega rented our fatherland out to drug traffickers, foreign powers, and all those who wished to pay him dollars to use the fatherland—as if it were a filthy whorehouse—leaving it stained, violated, and dirty from all the infamous acts these damned immoral individuals wished to commit.

Noriega has trampled on and soiled our flag, our dignity as a free people, and our sovereignty. No one in the world supports Noriega anymore. All free and democratic countries have withdrawn their ambassadors and representatives. They are all aware of the tyrannical situation our people are facing today.

A Latin American presidential summit was held in Costa Rica on 26 October to celebrate the 100th anniversary of democracy in that sister republic. The Noriega puppet government was not invited, despite efforts by the tyrant through [Panamanian Foreign Minister] Kam, who tried to be accepted at the meeting, from which he left ashamed.

The decision has been made—with Noriega there is no possibility for our country to improve. The future with Noriega will bring us misery, crime, destruction, mourning, and poverty.

Like every tyranny in its final stages, attacks are directed toward the Catholic Church and the labor unions. The expulsion from Panama of the mother superior of Maria Inmaculada School and the firing of teachers and doctors throughout the country are not accidents. The former is part of an old and well-conceived maneuver to expel all religious personnel from Panama to implement cult worship of the tyrant and the devil beginning with the elementary schools—remember, educational reform equals communism. The latter is very close to the former; it seeks to dismember the more belligerent unions and later try to implement the mass dismissals of public employees.

Only we ourselves are capable of building our future. Only we, fighting side by side, will be able to topple the tyranny, thus obtaining a brighter future and a free fatherland for our children. Only Panamanians can save Panama. Let us fight. Let us take to the streets, because victory is near. We are millions of honest Panamanians against a handful of henchmen. With our pressure we can convince other honest Panamanians within the FDP [Panama Defense Forces] to support us, now or never.

Actions: Delay payments to IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] and INTEL [National Institute of Telecommunications]; do not pay taxes; do not play the lottery; do not gamble at the casinos or the racetrack. That money is used by the tyrant to destroy us. Do not have your car inspected until next year. If you go now, they will make an extra buck on you by charging you a lot of money even if the car runs well, because they know they are about finished and they must take advantage of it.

Organize yourself within your street, residential area, and community. Prepare for the moment when we must all act together to achieve the return of democracy and freedom to this noble land. The moment to act has come!

Ministry Calls for 'Maximum State of Alert'

PA0211153489 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 2 Nov 89 p 18

[War Communique No 2 issued by the Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity of the Finance and Treasury Ministry—date not given]

[Text] In view of the provocations by U.S. Army troops against the townships of Arraijan and La Chorrera yesterday (31 October), the Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity (CODEPADI) of the Finance and Treasury Ministry raises its strong voice in protest to denounce to the world the vile aggressions to which our beloved fatherland is being subjected on the part of the invader army.

Therefore, we call on the members of our overall defense to assume fighting positions to defend our fatherland and our sovereignty.

At this moment, we extoll the patriotic courage of our companeros of the CODEPADI in La Chorrera District who—imbued with a deep feeling of patriotism and nationalism—along with the patriotic and courageous people of La Chorrera and our Panama Defense Forces, bravely stopped the advance of the gringo invader who attempted to soil our national sovereignty and dignity.

As of now, we urge all the other institutional CODEPADIs to declare themselves on a maximum state of alert, as well as our CODEPADI members in the Finance and Treasury Ministry at the national level, in order to be ready to repel aggression by the U.S. Army, its domestic allies, and all those who are against dignity, sovereignty, and the national liberation struggle being waged by our people, with the purpose of eradicating the presence of the invader from our territory by 31 December 1999.

To advance is the glorious slogan: For Panama our lives; not one step backward.

Castro Sends Message on Independence Day

PA0311134389 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Nov 89 p A-1

["Text" of message sent by Cuban President Fidel Castro Ruz to Panama's Francisco A. Rodriguez P.—issued in Havana on 2 November]

[Text] His Excellency Mr Francisco A. Rodriguez P., provisional president of the Republic of Panama:

On the occasion of a new anniversary of the proclamation of independence of the Republic of Panama, I am pleased to express to your excellency and to the fraternal Panamanian people our most cordial congratulations on behalf of the Cuban people and Government.

We take this opportunity to reiterate to you, on this important anniversary, our support to the struggle being waged—by the courageous isthmian people, the government, and the Defense Forces—to attain full sovereignty over the canal and to decide your own destiny in view of the foreign aggression and pressure.

I hereby convey our expressions of friendship and best wishes for the welfare of the fraternal Panamanian people and for their personal prosperity.

Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Government of the Republic of Cuba.

Argentina

Government Ends 'Good Offices' Role in Nicaragua

PY0211213289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1840 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Nov (NA)—Argentina "has concluded" the informal good offices role, which it was carrying out in Nicaragua with the goal of demobilizing and relocating the contras, after the Sandinist Government announced its unilateral decision to lift the cease-fire it had implemented in 1988.

This was announced today by Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo, who added that Argentina will continue seeking ways to "democratize and pacify" Nicaragua. Cavallo made this statement at a luncheon sponsored by the Argentine Construction Chamber.

Answering NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS on whether President Menem will continue to carry out an informal good offices role, Cavallo said that, in keeping with President Menem's orders, he had phoned foreign ministers from other countries to try to achieve the demobilization of the "contras" as is established in the Tela (Honduras) treaty. This treaty was signed in August 1988 by all Central American presidents.

Cavallo said that during the stopover in Managua, Ortega told Menem that he "would take into account" Argentina's position when deciding on the cease-fire with the "contras."

Cavallo said that the 2-page communique released yesterday by the Nicaraguan Government "is ambiguous," stating that the government is willing to restore the cease-fire if there is an accord in the informal negotiations to demobilize the "contras," which have been carried out by several presidents, among them President Menem—as well as the United Nations and the OAS.

Regarding the lifting of the cease-fire, which has been in force for the past 19 months, Cavallo said: "It was not the proper thing to do." But he added that the communique also included some positive points, such as "the commitment to hold the elections."

In answer to a question Cavallo said: "We have concluded our good offices role but we will continue to support the pacification of Nicaragua and the holding of free elections."

He added that "fortunately the contras have stated that they will not resume hostilities and Ortega has said that he will reciprocate if not attacked."

Cavallo said that the Argentine Government "will be alert" to new developments in the Nicaraguan situation and he added that "if we requested (to carry out new negotiations), we will study the request based on developments." He also said that "we have done everything possible" to achieve the demobilization of the "contras."

Alluding to Ortega's announcement that he was going to lift the cease-fire, Cavallo added that the Argentine observers who were sent by the OAS to Nicaragua have reported that thus far, "generally speaking, the election process is being carried out well, but Ortega's sharp remarks at the Costa Rican summit took us all by surprise."

He said that Ortega "had reasons (to adopt this attitude) such [words indistinct].

Cavallo discussed the issue this week with Raul Carignano, the secretary for Latin American affairs, who was called back urgently from Madrid where he was attending a seminar on Spanish-Latin American relations.

On 29 October, Menem stopped over in Managua. In view of Ortega's announcement in Costa Rica about lifting the cease-fire, Menem's stopover in Managua was cut from 4 hours to 1 hour. It was then that Ortega requested Menem to carry out a good offices role. This request was accepted and, in view of the situation, it ended today.

Economic Delegation Holds Talks in Moscow

New Trade Measures Discussed

PY0211125689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1758 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Oct (TELAM)—Juan Carlos Sanchez Arnaud, under secretary for bilateral economic negotiations, said on 31 October that "concerning commercial relations, the USSR considers our country a priority partner."

Sanchez Arnaud visited Moscow from 24 to 26 October. He headed an Argentine delegation that also included Jorge Campbell, commercial integration under secretary; Juan Gear, National Grain Board representative; and Fishing Under Secretary Luis Otero.

Sanchez Arnaud said: "Argentina cannot ignore the substantial changes that are taking place in the USSR both in the political and economic fields." He added that, during their visit, they held a meeting to prepare for a March 1990 session of the Argentine-Soviet mixed commission.

Among other issues, the Argentine representatives, with the participation of Argentine industrialists, discussed measures with their Soviet counterparts to fully comply with the fishing agreements, to continue the grain and byproducts trade, and to resume the sale of Argentine meat to the Soviet Union.

Although Sanchez Arnaud refused to speculate on the outcome of the talks, he said: "There is a willingness to maintain a high-level relationship between the two countries that will be reflected in the participation of the various Soviet republics and Argentine provinces. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Meat, Grain Sales To Resume

PY0211145589 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish
1048 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Nov—It has been reported that the Argentine-Soviet Economic and Trade Commission, which met in Moscow, has authorized Argentina to resume the sale of meat and grains to the Soviet Union.

It was also agreed that measures will be adopted to improve the implementation of the 1988 Industrial Cooperation Agreement. The need to exchange information on the changes that are occurring in the economic policies of the Soviet Union and Argentina was also discussed.

The 2-day meeting, which concluded on 1 November, was presided over by Juan Sanchez Arnaud, bilateral economic negotiations under secretary, and by Aleksand Kachanov, first deputy minister of the Ministry of Economic Relations.

The document signed by the two countries expresses "the parties' satisfaction with the development of economic and trade relations" and stresses that "as a result of the efforts that have been made to promote nontraditional forms of cooperation, contacts have been made between Argentine and Soviet provinces."

Menem, Paraguay's Rodriguez To Dedicate Bridge

PY0111202489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2345 GMT 30 Oct 89

[Text] Posadas (Misiones), 30 Oct (TELAM)—Presidents Carlos Menem and Andres Rodriguez of Argentina and Paraguay, respectively, will dedicate the "San Roque Gonzalez de Santa Cruz bridge"on 27 November. The bridge links the cities of Posadas and Encarnacion. It was built by our country over the Parana River as part of the Yacyreta hydroelectric dam project.

The meeting between the two presidents to dedicate this public work was confirmed this morning by Agustin Teofilo Puente, the director of the Posadas Municipality international affairs department, who claims he has "unofficial Foreign Ministry information."

According to this information, Menem and Rodriguez will meet on the central roadway on the border between the two countries, where the pertinent ceremony will be held at noon.

President Menem and General Rodriguez will then go to Asuncion, Paraguay, to discuss Argentine-Paraguayan relations, especially those points involving regional integration, according to reports datelined Asuncion.

Supreme Court Justice Caballero Resigns

PY0211123689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
2328 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 1 Nov (TELAM)—It was officially reported today that the national executive branch has accepted the resignation of Jose Severo Caballero from the post of judge of the Argentine Supreme Court of Justice.

The resignation of Caballero, who was president of the Supreme Court, was accepted 31 October through Decree 1161, which was released 1 November at Government House. The decree was signed by President Carlos Menem and Education and Justice Minister Antonio Salonia.

Cucchietti Announces Arms Shipment to Pakistan

PY0211000689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0008 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] Rosario, 31 Oct (TELAM)—Defense Production Secretary Miguel Cucchietti announced today that "20,000 mortar fuzes are ready for shipment to Pakistan" and that a second lot of 40,000 fuzes will be shipped in January. Cucchietti made those remarks at Rosario's ammunition factory.

Cucchietti talked to reporters during his inspection of the "Fray Luis Beltran" military factory, 20 km north of Rosario. Cucchietti said the fuzes for Pakistan are for 81 and 120-mm mortars. He added, however, that they were manufactured at another factory.

Cucchietti inspected the "Fray Luis Beltran" factory to ascertain the degree of worker professionalism and the quality of products from the assembly line, which inlcude different caliber ammunition for military weapons (automatic rifles, machineguns, and pistols), sports weapons, and medium and heavy artillery.

Regarding the medium-weight Argentine tank (TAM), Ccchietti said the government is discussing "selling it to an interested country to earn foreign currency for the nation," but he did not specify the country he was talking about.

Regarding the IA-63 Pampa plane, Cucchietti said the government is talking with countries interested in purchasing the plane and countries interested in participating in its production, such as France and the United States. Cucchietti recalled that U.S. technicians verified the plane's versatility and capacity for advanced pilot training.

Regarding the "Condor II," Cucchietti said Argentina "will only sell it if it is used for peaceful purposes," and added that the missile remains in the experimental stage and that it is being built with Argentine human resources and technology, with the help of foreign capital.

Bolivia

COB Stages Rally To Protest Economic Policy

PY0211004489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0906 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Excerpts] La Paz, 1 Nov (EFE)—The Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) has staged the first mass protest since Jaime Paz Zamora assumed power, and has said that the government economic policy is opposed to the interests of the people.

Paz Zamora took power on 6 August. He is supported by a coalition of his party—the social democratic Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR)—and the right-wing Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN).

On 31 October a throng of [word indistinct] people gathered in San Francisco Square in downtown La Paz to express support for the salary demands of 74,000 urban and rural teachers. Some 260 leaders of the teachers have been on a hunger strike for the past 8 days.

Teachers demand a salary bonus of 270 bolivianos (some $90) to compensate for the increased cost of living resulting from the 20-percent increase in fuel prices that the government ordered 2 and ½ months ago.

Representatives of factory workers, mine workers, construction workers, peasants, and high school and university students participated, along with teachers, in the COB-organized rally. The COB is the country's only workers federation.

For 45 minutes, speakers urged demonstrators "to struggle against the neoliberal economic model" that the government is implementing in the country, and criticized the "constant international trips" and other "privileges" of the ruling elite.

Paz Zamora has stated that he will continue implementing his predecessor Victor Paz Estenssoro's economic policy. Paz Estenssoro liberalized the job market, decentralized and dismantled public enterprises, and dismissed 23,000 mine workers, among other things.

During the rally, labor leaders said that the Education Ministry is refusing to give a bonus to teachers, while at the same time the government grants "repressive organizations" (the Interior and Defense Ministries) nearly $30 million "to repress workers proposals."

COB Organizations Secretary Ruffo Rivera said, on behalf of the COB, that the present authorities are "antinational" and "neo-oligarchical," and called on all workers to support teachers' demands. [passage omitted]

Interior Under Secretary Raul Loayza warned that the government will not tolerate pressures affecting the institutional process. The remark was in answer to threats by other sectors—such as medical doctors—to organize demonstrations in the next few days.

River Outlet to Atlantic Through Brazil Proposed

PY0311024089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1628 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] La Paz, 1 Nov (EFE)—The Bolivian Government has proposed a project to Brazil that will provide the landlocked country an outlet to ports on the Atlantic through rivers in northeast Bolivia and the Amazon River in Brazil.

Bolivian Tranport Minister Willy Vargas said, as he left the Government Palace after meeting with President Paz Zamora, that the project presented to the Brazilian Government involves the construction of roads in Bolivian territory and ports on the Itenez and Mamore Rivers, which empty into the Amazon River.

Bolivia presented this proposal at the meeting of transport and communications ministers of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty countries in Manaus, Brazil, last week.

Minister Vargas reported that the Brazilian Government will finance a technical study on how to remove rock formations that hinder navigation on the Itenez and Mamore Rivers.

The Bolivian delegation also proposed that Brazil and Peru open a river route through their territory between ports on the Pacific and the Atlantic, to which Bolivia will gain access through its northeastern rivers.

Bolivia also proposed linking the Amazon and the River Plate basins with roads connecting Brazil with cities in eastern Bolivia.

The Bolivian transport and communications minister finally announced that the countries of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty—Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela—will hold their next meeting in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in November 1990.

Brazil

Sarney at Summit of Portuguese-Speaking Countries

PY0211110889 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 1 Nov 89

[Text] President Sarney opened the presidential summit of Portuguese-speaking countries today in Sao Luis, Maranhao. President Sarney's first meeting in Sao Luis took place at 0820 on 31 October when he drove to the airport to welcome the final arrival for the summit, Portuguese President Mario Soares.

The meeting of the heads of state began at 1000 with a discussion on establishing the International Institute of the Portuguese Languange. There were two proposals: Brazil wanted to broaden the scope of the institute, and Portugal proposed restricting it to the discussion of languange.

President Sarney opened the Institute of Portuguese-speaking countries at 1130. Sarney said in his speech that the institute will promote the integration of Portuguese-speaking countries:

[Begin recording] Creating the International Institute of the Portuguese Language will open the doors of our societies to a future of joint enterprises. We will find bases for unity within our diversity. These factors will unite us and project our culture, the culture of our Portuguese language, to the level it deserves in the universe of other great modern civilizations. [end recording]

President Sarney left Lions Palace for the Callao Residence, where he had lunch with his colleagues. In the afternoon Sarney visited the Punta da Madeira facilities in Itaqui Port. These facilities are used to export iron ore mined at (Serra de Caraja). This facility, the second largest in the world, is run by computers. Brazil exported 3 million tons of iron ore through these facilities in October 1989 alone.

Coffee Exports to Soviet Union Increase

PY0211235289 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Oct 89 p 27

[Text] Londrina—The Soviet Government decision to offer the population instant coffee as a beverage option to alcohol, to control the high rate of alcoholism, continues to benefit the Cacique Instant Coffee Company. This year the Soviet Union increased Cacique's import quota from 6,000 tons to 11,000 tons and contracted for an additional 5,000 tons for delivery before March. Cacique, with total exports of $120 million (624 millions new cruzados at the official exchange rate) this year, is studying ways to enlarge its plant to meet the growing foreign market.

Cacique is associated in a joint venture [preceeding two words in English] with the Sojuzplodoimport/Moscow and the Plodimex/Hamburg which in Brazil constitutes the Plodimex do Brasil Exportacao e Importacao enterprise. Cacique has just asked the CACEX [Foreign Trade Department] to increase the existing $50,000 import quota for the year to $1 million.

According to the Brazilian Instant Coffee Industry Association (ABICS), Cacique is the largest exporter of manufactured products to the Soviet Union, and the Soviet Union jumped to second place among Brazilian instant coffee importing countries. This year the Soviet Union purchased 19,000 tons of instant coffee from Brazil.

Japan is another potential market for instant coffee, a product that they commonly mix with hot or cold milk and sell in cans. Cacique, with an eye on this market, has already invested $2 million (10.4 million new cruzados) in a factory to produce a coffee extract that is mixed with milk.

Cacique had already sold 1,500 tons of coffee extract, worth $2 million (10.4 million new cruzados), by August this year. The firm, however, plans to sell 4,500 tons by the end of the year.

Still in the coffe extract market, Cacique is working to launch the Cacique China Instant Coffee [as published] which has existed on paper since 1985. Cacique has also begun negotiating with firms in Korea and Taiwan to sell coffee extract in those places.

Colombia

Government, M-19 Sign Reincorporation Pact

PA0311014589 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0030 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Report by Lucia Esparza Baena—recorded]

[Text] [Esparza] A political pact with the M-19 [19 April Movement] was signed tonight before the country's main political leaders, several Cabinet ministers, and members of the dialogue work tables. The pact, which was signed today between the M-19 and the national government, signals the guerrilla group's reincorporation into civilian life after 6 months of negotiation and debates at the work tables.

The pact contains three main issues: political, socioeconomic, and public order-justice administration issues. It contains institutional reforms and specifies the steps to ensure that the M-19 becomes a political party.

[M-19 representative Ramiro Lucio] The main part of the agreement deals with constitutional and electoral reforms.

[Esparza] In the political pact, the government and M-19 agreed to establish the national special peace district [circunscripcion] that would give demobilized guerrillas the right to run for congressional seats during the upcoming constitutional period, through the creation of additional senator and representative seats.

[Government representative Rafael Pardo] There will be a provision regarding mandatory voting, which is supported by many political sectors in the country.

[Esparza] The peace accords will be ratified on 6 November and the M-19 demobilization agreement will be signed in Santo Domingo, Cauca Department.

Court of Appeals Judge Resigns, Others Halt Work

PA0311021089 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0015 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Jose Alejandro Bonivento, former president of the Supreme Court of Justice and current member of the Court of Appeals, resigned his post today, claiming that he had been subjected to undue pressure by the government.

Bonivento maintains that in applying what is tantamount to a state of siege, the government is issuing measures and wants them to be declared constitutional for its convenience and to satisfy foreign interests.

It was announced that 40 judges might resign next week to protest the assassination of their colleague Mariela Espinosa Arango.

Colombian judges today began a number of staggered stoppages to protest the assassination of Judge Mariela Espinosa Arango the evening of 1 November in Medellin. A total of 17,000 judges participated in a 2-hour stoppage. There will be two similar actions the morning and afternoon of 3 November. Medellin's Superior Court will be in recess for 1 week.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court of Justice complained that five judges have been killed in 2 months, and it requested a meeting with President Virgilio Barco. Judge Espinosa was buried this afternoon.

Escobar Gaviria's 'Operations Center' Raided

PA0211170989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1635 GMT 2 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota, 2 Nov (DPA)—In a building in the northwestern town of Envigado, Colombian police agents discovered the "operations center" of Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the biggest drug trafficker in the world, official spokesmen reported today in Bogota. According to the reports, elite patrols raided the building on 1 November and found valuable documents detailing the internal operations of the powerful Medellin Cartel.

Some of the documents, discovered during the police operation, include payrolls of some 144 people linked to the mafia, allegedly members of mercenary groups regarded as the "army" of the cocaine "barons."

Police spokesmen—who termed this the biggest blow against the narco-criminal organization directed by Escobar Gaviria—said other documents found clearly explain the links existing between the Medellin Cartel and criminal gangs in other countries. However, they gave no further details.

Several weeks ago, Army and police troops raided a Bogota building containing the "center of operations" of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, the second-ranking person in the Medellin Cartel, in an operation that gave the authorities clues to the main properties of the mafioso.

The police also reported the raid of a modern cocaine processing laboratory near the eastern town of San Martin. The laboratory has the capacity to process over 2 tons of alkaloids per month.

Rodriguez Gacha Denies Letter to FARC Leaders

PA0211222389 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Oct 89 p 7-C

[Text] Drug trafficker Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, aka "The Mexican," has denied he requested, through a letter, an alliance with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

This was stated in a letter addressed to LA PRENSA Director Juan Carlos Pastrana. Rodriguez Gacha sent copies of this letter to all media.

The text of the letter follows:

Mr Pastrana:

An article on page 1 of your 19 October newspaper maintains that very reliable sources had disclosed that Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha sent a message to the FARC leaders last week proposing an alliance with that subversive group.

The truth is that such a letter does not exist and that I have sent no message to any of the people mentioned in your newspaper.

However, the worst part of this is that the evil intention of the alleged writers of the letter reaches the limit because they portray me as the self-confessed culprit of all crimes perpetrated against UP [Patriotic Union] leaders. It is true I was accused of the [former UP leader Jaime] Pardo Leal assassination. However, the courts have already issued a verdict of not guilty. No man has ever been pursued in Colombia with such malice. It seems that the entire penal code has fallen upon me, while my oponents are completely ignored.

Regarding the rest of the letter, it does not even deserve mentioning because such a letter does not exist. Therefore, everything is false. Moreover, all sectors are fully aware of my principles and my struggle toward the so-called FARC groups.

I clearly want to stress my agreement with the proposals made by the M-19 [19 April Movement], especially those dealing with ceasing offensive operations against the Armed Forces and the definite laying down of weapons. These are the first steps toward making Colombia sit at the negotiating table, with no exclusions.

This is my position, and this is the truth. I am aware that the mission of each one of you, as Colombians, is to bring peace back to Colombia.

Yours Faithfully,
Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha.

Bodies Found on Farm Linked to Medellin Cartel

PA0311033489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0010 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] What began as a search for a weapons cache became a mystery that would rival any of Sherlock

Holmes' stories. In a house located 1 km from Tenjo, north of Bogota, 13th Brigade members today found a grave containing the bodies of two women who were buried more than 3 months ago.

The house was rented in 1987 by Luis Emilio Espina, also known as Gonzalo Rojas, who was killed 1 week ago. Sources in the 13th Brigade link him and his loan guarantor [fiador], Ernesto Velez, who was killed on the Guaymaral Highway 6 weeks ago, to the Medellin Cartel.

The house is on the Peru Farm, which adjoins the Chiguachi Estate belonging to Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha and Camilo Zapata, who also owns the famous Marroquin Castle.

According to a high-ranking Infantry School officer, this is the same house where [Bogota Mayor] Andres Pastrana was held when he was kidnapped. The person leasing the property disappeared after the assassination of Luis Carlos Galan, and since then 10 other people who used to frequent the farm have been mysteriously killed.

FARC Troops Reportedly Kill 5 Peasants

PA0311143789 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1230 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Army and National Police troops are conducting operations in the rural area of El Penon Municipality, Cundinamarca Department, to pursue the armed group that killed five peasants in the area. The peasants' corpses were found riddled with bullets. According to reports by the authorities, the corpses of the five peasants were found on the village outskirts. Some reports indicate that the peasants were killed by alleged members of the XXII Front of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] operating in this sector. The victims were identified as Jose Manuel Jimenez Rivera, Pedro Rafael Jimenez Cortez, Jose Lacides Ordonez, Jose Isaac Forero Linares, and Pedro Rafael Ordonez.

Car Bomb Explodes in Bogota; 4 Killed, 5 Injured

PA0311143689 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1216 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Bogota—Four people killed, five injured, and losses estimated to be in the millions are the result of a car bomb explosion in Bogota, the police reported to Radio Cadena Nacional. The car bomb was left under the bridge on 68th Street and 13th Street where it exploded at approximately 1100, killing Maria Jacinta Pulido, 42; Pilar Pulido, 19; a minor reportedly known as Carlos; Efrain Rincon Rodriguez, and a police official who died at the police clinic.

After the investigations, the authorities reported that the vehicle used in this attack was a 1981 blue Chevrolet with license plate No FD-03904. However, when the bomb exploded the vehicle was using licence plates No IC-9394. The removal of the corpses was supervised by 3d District Judge Jaime Bernardo Chavez Bolanos. The blast damaged showcases of at least 30 stores and destroyed some 20 food stands. Although the bomb exploded under the bridge, it was not seriously damaged and suspension of traffic was unnecessary.

Paraguay

Senators, Deputies Visit Navy Headquarters

Military Optimistic on Democracy

PY0211111889 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 1 Nov 89 p 4

[Text] Defense Minister General Juan Angel Souto Hernandez said yesterday that there is "an absolute consensus" in the Paraguayan Armed Forces about leading the country successfully through the democratization process. Minister Souto made this statement to congressmen visiting the Navy headquarters.

The minister emphasized that this consensus was reached after the 3 February coup that ousted dictator Stroessner. "Before the coup, there were many different opinions. Now we all share the same ideas," he added.

Souto Hernandez said that the military sector is optimistic about the success of the political process. "We are engaged in making the process successful. This is our objective; as nationalists, we want Paraguay to be a truly democratic country."

In view of the continuing conflicts within the ruling party, the minister was asked if the military would release another communique like the one released by the highest-ranking Armed Forces officers a few weeks ago. He answered: "The document released a few weeks ago expressed nothing but the Armed Forces' unrest; we are leaving everything else in the hands of the civilians. We believe that the civilians will consider current events and that the conflicts will soon be overcome. We are confident that this will happen."

Souto Hernandez pointed out: "We military men do not mingle in politics." He added that the military believes that "the politicians must solve the political problems themselves."

When asked whether the military will guarantee the democratization process despite the difficulties being faced by the ruling party, Minister Souto answered: "I cannot say whether or not we will guarantee the democratization process. All I can say is that we support democracy. We support our president's democratic ideas," Minister Souto emphasized.

Navy Attitudes Explained

PY0211190389 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 1 Nov 89 p 5

[Text] Navy Commander Rear Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit told senators and deputies yesterday that the institutionalization of the Armed Forces is not just a wish, but a reality "at least as far as the Navy is

concerned, because our commander in chief (Andres Rodriguez) has placed each of us in our respective field."

"We concentrate exclusively on our military duties. We do not want to involve ourselves in matters about which we know little or have little experience (referring to political matters). We are continuously trying to improve professionally. This is why we are not concerned with non-military matters," he said.

Gonzalez Petit said his sector is engaged in improving the Navy cadres. "I believe that, by fully immersing ourselves in our military duties and in improving ourselves professionally within our respective units, we will be contributing to the institutionalization process," he added.

"No Navy officer is currently engaged in political matters or in matters that do not concern the Navy. This is the Armed Forces' policy. It has been clearly established by our commander in chief."

Gonzalez Petit added: "Following the example of our illustrous president (Rodriguez), we want to comply with the terms of the Statute of Military Personnel regarding the period of time one should remain in each position, the hierarchy, and retirement because this is the only way in which we can ensure a certain rotation in the commands and a permanent renewal of the cadres. We will strictly comply with this policy," the Navy commander said.

Senate Chairman Alberto Nogues and Chamber of Deputies Chairman Miguel Angel Aquino were received by Defense Minister General Angel Souto; General Eumelio Bernal, the Armed Forces chief of staff; Navy Commander Rear Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit; and the highest-ranking officers under their command.

After explaining the organization and the mission of the Navy to the congressmen, Gonzalez Petit put himself at their disposal to answer their questions. However, there were no questions. After the meeting, an elite group of Marines conducted disembarkation and beach-occupation maneuvers from a patrol boat, a helicopter, and a launch. The visitors then visited the Navy facilities and shared a luncheon with their hosts.

Higher Budget Wanted

PY0211192589 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 1 Nov 89 p 4

[Excerpt] High ranking officers reiterated their support yesterday for the transition process, for minimizing the conflict with the ruling Colorado party and for attaching more importance to political activities as a whole. The officers, who added that the institutional system is not merely an aspiration but a fact, emphasized the importance of the national budget allocation for the Defense Minister.

The officers expressed these views, during a visit that a few deputies and senators paid to the Navy headquarters in Sajonia, within the framework of a new style of relations between the Armed Forces and congress. In an unprecedented situation—at least during the past 4 decades—on 27 October the lawmakers visited the Army I Corps at the invitation of the Defense Ministry.

Navy Commander Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit explained that the Navy budget is at times insufficient, and that the Navy has had to adopt measures like the early discharge of its troops and the generation of its own funds to provide for its own maintenance.

Gonzalez Petit said: The 1989 budget allocation for the Navy is 8.763 billion guaranis, of which 7.982 billion were for current expenses and 781,000,000 for capital expenses. This allocation represents 18.6 percent of the Armed Forces' budget."

He added that in the budget allocation requested for next year, "unlike previous budgets, the budget for next year provides for no new positions. The only increase which has been included is the salary hike granted to military personnel and to public servants, plus a small increase in capital expenses from 781 to 848 million guaranis." With the new allocation, the Navy will receive 15.7 percent of the Armed Forces' budget, as compared to last year's 18.6 percent, the commander said.

The Navy budget provides for salaries for approximately 400 officers, 600 noncommissioned officers, 220 students, 2,531 recruits, 400 military employees, and 915 temporary employees. The budget also provides for equipment and infrastructure facilities. The nation's budget allocation is supplemented by other funds, which the Navy obtains from the exploitation of farms, brickworks, and naval and air transportation. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Defense Minister on Armed Forces Discipline

PY0211132089 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 27 Oct-2 Nov 89 p 6

[Text] Defense Minister Hugo Medina has said that "within the Armed Forces, there is full respect for the chain of command and for the established order." He said that there is "nothing that can lead one to assume that there can be the slightest indication of disorder" within the Armed Forces.

"I can assure you that the Armed Forces are calm, awaiting with natural expectation (...) the outcome of the elections," Medina told Radio Carve on Thursday, 19 October.

The defense minister was asked about a 19 October press report on a document allegedly circulating among mid-level Army and Air Force officers.

Reliable military sources have told BUSQUEDA that the document was not circulated among active Army personnel.

The document states that there is "widespread disappointment at all levels," especially among mid-level officers "who again feel betrayed by the political system and by the institutional order."

Medina said that he was surprised by the news that such a document had allegedly been circulating within the Armed Forces. He said: "Whoever wrote it (...) has quite clearly demonstrated that he has no military training and no (...) military bearing."

On Tuesday, 24 October, retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Wildredo Guerra, claimed responsibility for writing the document. In remarks to the newspaper LA REPUBLICA, Guerra wondered "how long" the Armed Forces will respect their chain of command.

Exchange Agreement With Soviet Architects Signed

PY0211152289 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 27 Oct 89 p 19

[Text] The USSR Union of Architects and the Association of Uruguayan Architects [Sociedad de Arquitectos del Uruguay] have signed an exchange agreement. The dean of the Architecture School, the USSR ambassador, and the Soviet architects who are visiting our country participated in the signing ceremony before the opening of an exhibition entitled "Urban Spaces in Soviet Architecture—1917-1987." The exhibition began on 26 October in the hall of the Architecture School.

Czechoslovak Group Meets With Party Leaders

PY0211150289 Montevideo LA HORA POPULAR in Spanish 27 Oct 89 p 10

[Text] A Czechoslovak delegation headed by Michal Stefanak, director of the International Affairs Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czecholslovakia, has met with FA [Broad Front] President General Liber Seregni and with the Communist Party of Uruguay [PCU] leadership.

Venezuela

Figueredo Regrets Nicaraguan Cease-Fire Decision

PA0311021689 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0045 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Venezuela deplores Nicaragua's decision to break the truce. Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo Planchard said that he deeply regretted the step taken by the Nicaraguan Government because it is not one that will lead to a proper environment for the re-establishment of peace in the region. However, Foreign Minister Figueredo Planchard said that not receiving the loans promised by the financial organizations on time and the fact that the contras, far from following the Tela plan, have been harrassing specific areas, had much bearing on President Ortega's decision.

Regarding President Daniel Ortega's request to President Carlos Andres Perez—as a member of the Group of Eight—to begin a dialogue seeking solutions to the Nicaraguan situation, Foreign Minister Figueredo Planchard said:

[Begin Figueredo recording] President Perez has been in contact with the presidents of the Group of Eight. He has written letters to its presidents. I have been in contact with Central American and Caribbean foreign ministers. Yesterday I talked with Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono regarding some statements he had made. We are trying to see if we can do something soon to stop this absurd process—returning to the battlefield—and create the conditions for elections.

In any case, Commander Ortega told President Perez that no matter what, Nicaragua would have elections. [end recording]

President, Ministers Discuss Border Problems

PA0311033789 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] An important meeting was held at Miraflores Palace today. The military high command and the interior and foreign ministers met with the president of the republic. They discussed the problems experienced at the border and the work to be done to improve safety in the region.

[Begin recording] [Defense Minister Filmo Lopez Uzcategui] We plan to review the procedures implemented and continue our logistical and communications support to the personnel involved in this task. We also plan to establish contacts with the Colombian personnel who are doing the same work we are doing along the border. The work there can be made easier if there is communication and understanding. [end recording]

Suriname

Commando Leader Invites Bouterse for Talks

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[Text] The leader of the so-called Jungle Commando, Ronny Brunswijk, has in a written invitation invited the chairman of the military authority, Desi Bouterse, for a discussion.

Brunswijk has earlier declared that he was willing to speak with the Army leader. According to the gang leader, this discussion is important for peace and democracy in our country. Brunswijk said in his letter that the date and [word indistinct] for the meeting will be fixed by the government. The military was this morning not available for comments on the invitation, which was issued by Brunswijk yesterday.